

مكتبة النجف

Monday September 30 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Greece D 4.00	Norway NK 16
Austria A 1.20	Hong Kong HK 25	Oman OR 1.00
Belgium B 1.00	India IN 25	Pakistan PK 1.00
Canada C 1.50	Indonesia ID 1.00	Poland P 2.20
France F 1.00	Italy I 1.00	Portugal P 1.00
Germany G 1.00	Japan J 1.00	Qatar Q 1.00
Greece D 4.00	South Korea SK 2.00	Romania R 1.00
Hong Kong HK 25	Saudi Arabia SA 1.00	Slovakia SK 1.00
India IN 25	Spain S 1.00	Slovenia S 1.00
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Italy I 1.00	Switzerland SF 3.20	Taiwan TW 1.00
Japan J 1.00	Taiwan TW 1.00	Thailand TH 1.00
South Korea SK 2.00	Thailand TH 1.00	Turkey TL 1.00
Saudi Arabia SA 1.00	Turkey TL 1.00	USA US 2.75
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Slovenia S 1.00		
Switzerland SF 3.20		
Taiwan TW 1.00		
Thailand TH 1.00		
Turkey TL 1.00		
USA US 2.75		

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,671

Jim White sees the real Gazza

## Kicking and screaming

G2 with European weather



Media

## The story the BBC will not run

G2 pages 8/9

Read Richard Williams and David Lacey

## SportExtra

Man Utd scupper Spurs, Liverpool wallop West Ham



# Widow fights for baby by dead husband

Clare Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**A** YOUNG widow is battling for the right to conceive a baby using sperm taken from her dead husband, in the first case of its kind in Britain.

Her attempt to bear the child her husband wanted is being blocked by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), which insists that the law requires his consent in writing. The sperm was taken from the 30-year-old man while he was in a coma on a life support machine. His widow, who has ob-

tained a court order guaranteeing anonymity, will take her legal action to the High Court in London on Wednesday.

Identified only by her initials, DB, she has had to take a second mortgage on her house to finance the case, which could cost her more than £80,000 if she loses.

The couple, from the Midlands, married in 1991 after a nine-year relationship. They started trying for a baby in January 1995 but two months later Mr B, a manager with a home improvement firm, contracted bacterial meningitis. He went into a coma and was pronounced brain dead four days later. At the request of

Mrs B, who is now aged 30, doctors at Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield agreed to take samples of sperm from her husband before switching off the life support machine. He was clinically dead when the second sample was taken.

Several months before, she says, she and her husband had read a magazine article about a widow impregnated by her dead husband's sperm. "We agreed that if we were ever in that situation, that's what we'd like to do," she told the Guardian.

The preserved sperm samples have lain in storage for the last 18 months at Jessop's Hospital, Sheffield, while the HFEA and Mrs B's lawyers

argued over her right to be inseminated with them.

Mrs B wants to be treated in Britain, or failing that, to have the samples exported to a clinic abroad. Doctors in Belgium and the US have agreed to carry out the procedure.

The HFEA maintains that it would be unlawful to use them in Britain without written consent, and will not export them abroad for a purpose for which they could not be used here.

Mrs B, who runs a small business, has already run up more than £50,000 in legal bills with a City of London solicitors' firm before switching

firms.

"Had I been pregnant when my husband died and I'd turned round to everybody and said 'I don't want a baby now I haven't got a husband, I'm getting an abortion', that would have been fine. My husband's wishes wouldn't have counted. But not the other way around."

The case is expected to be heard by Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court's Family Division and England's senior family judge. Lord Lester, Mrs B's QC, will argue that the requirement for consent applies only where sperm comes from a third party, not from the woman's husband.

Under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 1990, which regulates artificial insemination, written consent is not needed where a couple are treated "together". Lord Lester will contend that this includes cases where a husband's sperm is used after his death to inseminate his wife.

He will also argue that the authority has erred in law in adopting an inflexible policy on exporting sperm, and that under European law it may not restrict access to medical treatment in other EC member states.

Mrs B said: "What is totally bizarre is that I could have treatment with the sperm of an anonymous donor, who

could be dead as long as he'd left a piece of paper. Surely it would be better for a child to know that his father loved his mother, it was wanted, it was planned."

Before the 1990 act, there was nothing to stop a woman in Mrs B's situation from being inseminated with her dead husband's sperm. Her solicitor, Richard Stein, a partner in the law firm Leigh Day & Co, who recently took over the case, said no problem would have arisen if she had been inseminated while her husband was still on life support.

Ruth Deech, chairman of the HFEA, said: "The matter of consent is fundamental to

the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 1990. This act specifically requires consent of a man to storage and use of his gametes, i.e. his sperm, after his death.

"Written consent can only be obtained after the donor has had an opportunity to receive proper counselling, including consideration of the welfare of any child that might be born."

She said that directions made under the act banning export of sperm unless it could lawfully be used in Britain "seek to ensure that the principle of written consent is not evaded by the export of gametes for storage and use abroad."

## Blair wheels and deals to get pensions compromise

Michael White  
Political Editor

**T**ONY Blair was last night still a whisker away from securing a trouble-free Blackpool conference after a frantic day of wheeler-dealing failed to secure the certain support of key unions and party activists over his compromise proposals on pensions.

As Mr Blair put the finishing touches to his vision for "The Decent Society", party strategists admitted the conference could still end up facing both ways thanks to union commitments on employment rights and pensions. The compromise scheme, agreed by Labour's ruling national executive committee (NEC), would create a standing commission to consider pension issues, with

on the need for economic caution in language that may stiffen the rebels' determination. "No quick fixes, no easy options, no voodoo economics," the shadow chancellor will say.

In stitching up their plans for a triumphal week, the organisers need two portman-hotel motions, due to be debated on Wednesday, remitted without a vote. That can only happen if two London constituency parties, Southall and Poplar & Canning Town, agree.

If they refuse, such large voting blocs as the Transport & General Workers Union (T&GWU) and the GMB general union — whose delegations meet to discuss their position today — will first vote for the standing commission and then back the two motions supporting Lady Castle.

Mr Brown's controversial plan to re-target child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds would also be hit in the crossfire. In a separate battle, there is also the prospect that different unions will publicly put different interpretations on a fudged formula that speaks of restoring unfair dismissal rights for workers the moment they start in a job, rather than after two years.

Since Mr Blair's team is stressing the need to win power on the basis of restored trust with the electorate, this may create mild embarrassment. Mr Brown said yesterday that Labour should "say what it is going to do and mean what it says".

Yesterday all the key figures were singing from the same hymn sheet with Mr Prescott echoing Mr Brown in stressing the need for wealth creation as part of New Labour's drive to put traditional values — "fairness, justice and partnership" — into a modern setting.

They all sidestepped details of tax changes under a Blair government. On BBC1's Breakfast with Frost yesterday Mr Brown insisted: "The idea that Labour wants to tax people out of envy and malice, that we want to punish them, is completely untrue."

There would be no "punitive taxation", he added. But in today's speech he will warn the privatised utilities that he remains determined to take their excess profits in windfall tax to finance plans for jobs for young and the long-term unemployed.

**'I think they are running scared because there has been so much support for our very reasonable statement about what the party should do.'**

Lady Castle yesterday

pensioners groups represented, but only after Mr Blair has safely been elected. It was the backing of big unions and of 83-year-old Jack Jones, ex-leader of the transport workers, now president of the National Pensioners Convention.

But the frail figure of Baroness Barbara Castle, now 85, still stood between the Blair forces and victory. She said of the leadership: "I think they are running scared because there has been so much support for our very reasonable statement about what the party should do."

Last night she was resisting the blandishments of Gordon Brown who will make his own conference speech today

Labour in Blackpool, page 5; Leader comment, page 9; Getting it wrong, page 11



Tony Blair and Cherie Booth at Blackpool's North Shore Methodist church yesterday. Mr Blair will preach to a less united congregation this week. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

## Clinton calls crisis summit

Jonathan Freedland  
in Washington and  
Derek Brown in Jerusalem

**P**RESIDENT Clinton put his personal prestige on the line yesterday, summoning Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat to a White House summit aimed at reviving the Middle East peace process. The meeting could take place as early as tomorrow.

Mr Netanyahu accepted immediately but Mr Arafat was insisting that the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak should also attend and planned to fly to Cairo today to persuade him to do so, according to a Palestine Liberation Organisation official. King Hussein of Jordan will also go to Washington.

As Israeli and Palestinian security measures helped avoid a repeat of last week's widespread clashes, a stern-faced Mr Clinton announced his summit initiative from the Rose Garden. "I will do everything in my power to



Bill Clinton: 'We must move the peace process forward'

end the violence," he said. "It is our responsibility to do whatever we can to protect the peace process and help move it forward."

United States officials signalled that the meeting would last no more than two days. "This is a crisis situation," the secretary of state, Warren Christopher, said, describing the current trouble as the

worst in the three years since the historic handshake between Mr Arafat and the former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn.

Television diplomacy yesterday offered little ground for optimism. Appearing on US political talk-shows, Mr Netanyahu refused to close the 2,200-year-old tunnel near Jerusalem's Temple Mount that sparked the latest violence. "It's open and it will stay open," he said, dismissing the issue as an excuse for Palestinian riots.

Mr Netanyahu did not even rule out a proposal by hard-liners in his rightwing Likud party for Israel to disarm the 30,000 members of the Palestinian police as punishment for shooting Israeli soldiers.

Mr Netanyahu insisted that before Israel will consider redeploying its occupation forces in the West Bank flash-point town of Hebron, it will insist on "modifications" to the withdrawal plan agreed last week.

Turn to page 2, column 3

## Fife five are four but still they play a round

John Mullin

**T**HERE were five of them at Kinghorn Golf Club in Fife, pensioners who played together regularly for years. Five, that was, until one dropped dead.

Jimmy Hogg was 77 and first to play. He had just fired his customary fine shot from the first tee when he suffered a heart attack and collapsed.

His playing partners, dubbed the Grumpy Old Men by fellow members, faced a dilemma. Abandon the round, or continue. It was no contest.

No sooner was Mr Hogg in the ambulance than the four-some began their round.

Jack Kechin, aged 75, told the Sunday Mail: "It might seem terrible, but we are all of a certain age, and I'm sure Jimmy would have wanted us to do that. He would have done the same."

Johnny Lea, 77, said: "Jimmy hit a great shot right down the middle of the fairway. He was a great golfer. 'Maybe with hindsight, it was a bit heartless. But it was a spur of the moment decision.'"

Jimmy's daughter, Anne, bore them no ill-will. "The way he died," she said, "he wouldn't have wanted it any other way."

## Inside

**Britain**  
A judge's appeal court judge rejected a bid by suppressing some women judges and barristers had succeeded because of their sex.

**World News**  
Defence lawyers at the International Tribunal on Rwanda will argue there was no slaughter of Tutsis; and say the victims were Hutus.

**Finance**  
New Labour's corporatist blueprint faces twin perils of disbelief and disillusionment in election battle.

**Sport**  
Liverpool went three points ahead in the Premiership with a 2-1 win at West Ham. Manchester United won 2-0 at home to Tottenham.

Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10

G2 Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16



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# Paint job in cause of new world disorder

The raver radicals are all in place, the walls are thick with graffiti, solidarity is in the air, the drums are beating... but does anyone know where the dockers are?

## Monday sketch



John Vidal

**T**HE old Liverpool Customs House is a two-storey 1960s architectural aberration. It slumps empty behind fortified walls in sight of silent docks and redundant cranes. But yesterday afternoon it was pulsating to a dozen samba drums and talk of a radical new alignment in British politics.

University lecturer (excitedly waving veggieburger): "This is the first time we've got opposite ends of the spectrum of anti-capitalist activism together."

PhD student: "Blair and the political parties are irrelevant here. We are not working from a polarised starting point. Union activist (waving hand): "There's a new spirit of radicalism in the land. I've never seen anything like this..." This is the Morning After

the Party party meeting in Liverpool.

Three hundred unofficial delegates have squatted the government building, and after a full day's marching with gaudy banner, drum and pantomime dragon beside Liverpool dockers who have been on strike a year, they are now waking up.

Ravers, environmentalists, anti-car groups, animal rights, pro-Justice, land-for-all make up a coalition of young radicals calling themselves Reclaim the Future.

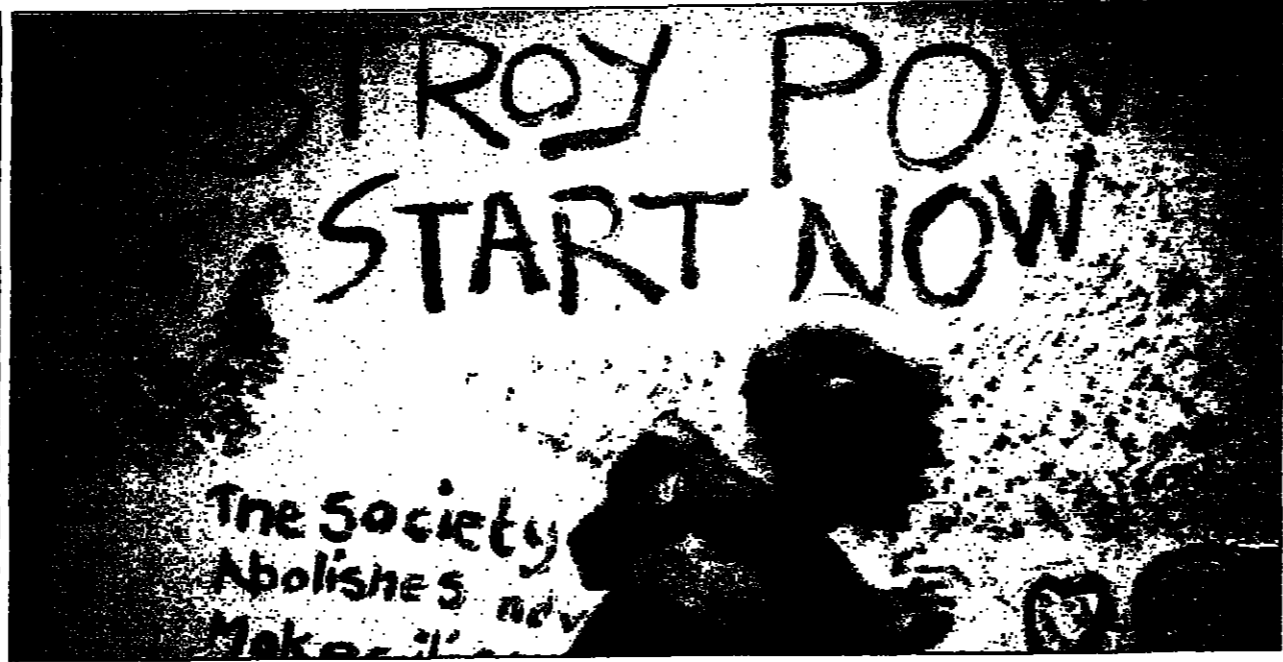
They blink, and, like the boy in the Yellow Pages ad, look at the devastation around them.

The Customs House may have needed paint, but this is absurd. Every wall is covered in graffiti ranging from (mild) Phillip Larkin to (rude) Animal Lib. Every door, every window is covered in slogans.

For half the activists the graffiti is a welcome first sign of the trashing of "Babylon" and the consumer society. Others, though, theorise that if an enemy citadel has been taken, it should be looked after.

As so, as one faction adds more graffiti, others are painting it out in a politically beige arrangement of spongedaubed conceptual patterns and DIY hieroglyph.

Shannon (a singer): "I



One element in the graffiti artists' message from the Liverpool docks

wouldn't want the dockers or anyone else arriving here and saying: 'If this is the future, come out.'

Dave (radical graffiti artist): "There's a man in prison for his graffiti!! It's expression. Don't censor it!"

Shannon (painting fever-

ishly over sexist, racist and other offending words: "But I don't like it!"

Bill (older, wiser): "I'm getting a new perspective about a different sort of struggle."

Out in the corridors, there is an air of political freshers' fair. The Floughshares group

is giving a workshop but the dockers' wives have not appeared.

Most people want to hear them. In their absence small groups gather to discuss the weekend of solidarity with the dockers which should end with a massive rally today

with a little specialist help by Reclaim the Streets activists.

By 4.30pm, the samba drummers are in full swing, a rainbow flag hangs over the Customs House, and it is clear that the dockers, for all their intentions, will not be meeting their

us to live up to their dull marching. We need them to broaden our own struggle. We've got a lot in common really," says Jim, last seen at Newbury.

For a start, no dockers have turned up at the Customs House and there is grumbling that no-one is getting the chance to exchange views. The cry goes up "Where are the dockers?" One man says he went to the Flying Piglet pub but only found New Labourites. "I got quite a lot of support, but there were no dockers there."

The unions, it is agreed by the under-30s, are ossified, the political parties deaf to their concerns. "People desperately want a clear vision and a coming together of groups. But there is a real danger that we will just be seen as disillusioned middle classes," says one university student.

"I think this is one of the first times that young people have shown any public concern for workers' causes," says a dockers' support campaigner from London. "The trade union method of struggle clearly hasn't worked. Who knows where this will go?"

Yes, he agrees, it is very odd that the people who do not want jobs should be trying to help others to get theirs back. "It's a melting pot here, isn't it?"

## NHS tops list of private health care providers

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**T**HE National Health Service has become the leading provider of private health care because of the rapid growth of paybeds in trust hospitals, figures show today.

Paybeds last year grabbed almost a sixth of the market for private acute care, overtaking the two top independent operators and helping trigger the first fall in numbers of private hospital bed numbers in a decade.

The development will cause unease across the political spectrum. Critics on the left will see it as further evidence of NHS privatisation; those on the right will claim the Government's health market system has undermined the private sector by allowing trusts to compete unfairly.

On present trends, the NHS will consolidate its paradoxical position as leading private provider and will force the closure of independent hospitals unable to compete, according to the authoritative Fitzhugh Directory of Independent Healthcare and Long-term Care.

"Casualties look inevitable and some would suggest it is not before time if these are out-dated hospitals providing a limited range of medical facilities," says the directory's editor, William Fitzhugh.

"There is no doubt that the industry has in the past sustained hospitals which few industry executives would wish to use personally."

There are no accurate figures for the number of NHS paybeds, as the Department of Health stopped collecting data in 1991 when the market system started. Almost three-

quarters of trusts report private patient income, but the main growth is attributed to an estimated 74 trusts with separate private patient units.

More than 50 trusts last year each made more than £1 million from private patients, with seven - all in London - making more than £5 million.

The Fitzhugh Directory says NHS private patient income has risen from £94 million in 1990, when it was 10.9 per cent of the market, to £225 million last year, when it was 16.5 per cent.

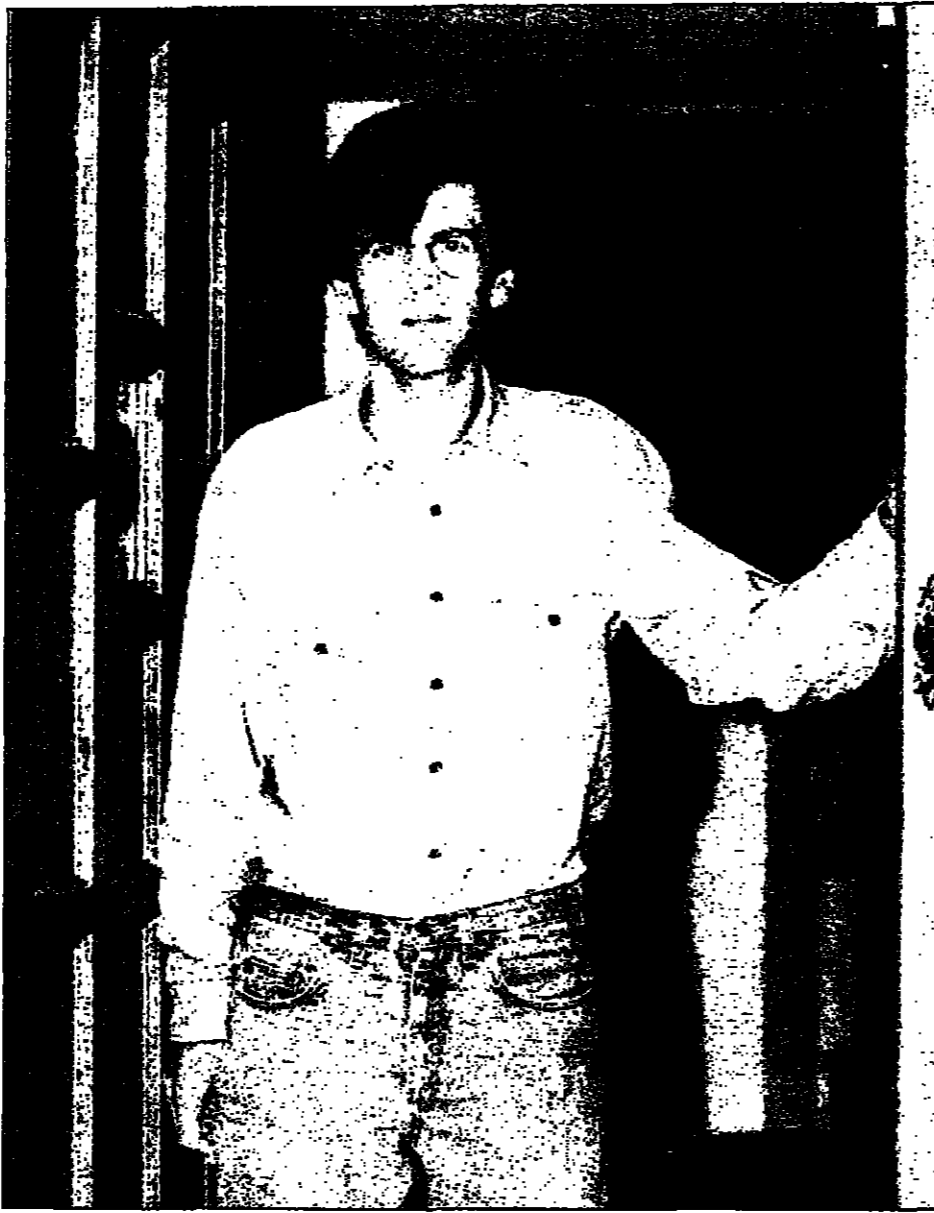
Since 1994, the NHS has overhauled Bupa Hospitals and General Healthcare Group (formerly BMI Healthcare), although the latter has also fallen back because it sold three London hospitals.

Total private hospital bed numbers have fallen from 11,377 in 223 units in 1995 to 11,098 in 221 this year, according to the directory.

Forecasting a possible 20 per cent market share for the NHS by the end of the decade, Mr Fitzhugh says: "The forces to preserve and extend NHS private sector activity are now too powerful to be eliminated."

Private hospital operators are already alarmed at the prospect, disclosed this month, of a tie-up between the NHS Trust Federation and the Norwich Union, the private health insurer. Barry Hassell, chief executive of the Independent Healthcare Association, last night called on the Tories and Labour to make clear where they stood on trusts' freedom to pursue private patient income.

"Trusts are taking unacceptable risks with taxpayers' money. The Government should enforce Treasury rules on their commercial activities," Mr Hassell said.



Peter Young outside his home in Amersham

## Banker paid £1/2m in cash for home

Paul Murphy

**A** QUESTION mark over how Peter Young, the disgraced City fund manager at the centre of a scandal over the alleged misuse of investment money, was able to pay £450,000 in cash for his family's five-bedroom home in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, has sparked a formal police investigation into Mr Young's affairs.

The house was raided by officials from the Serious Fraud Office and the City of London Police on Friday night. Mr Young, who was dismissed by his employers, German-owned investment bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, a fortnight ago for gross misconduct, was present during the raid. So were his wife, Harrianna, and two sons.

Police spent three hours at the house removing documents, but no arrests were made.

Over the past month, Morgan Grenfell and Imro, a City watchdog responsible for regulating the investment management industry, have been investigating possible irregu-

larities in three unit investment trusts run by Mr Young. The trusts, which were suspended briefly while Morgan quantified a series of unsuitable investments in small high-risk companies, had attracted some £1.4 billion from 90,000 investors across the UK and Europe. Morgan's parent, Deutsche Bank, had to pump more than £180 million into the trusts and has promised to compensate investors.

Investigators believe the house was purchased earlier this year with a loan from one of a series of "holding companies" set up by Mr Young. These companies, which were registered in Luxembourg, were allegedly used by Mr Young to disguise the high-risk nature of his investment strategies.

Investors' money was being directed into small high-risk

companies, typically high-technology and drug development firms, which had yet to achieve a listing on a recognised stock exchange.

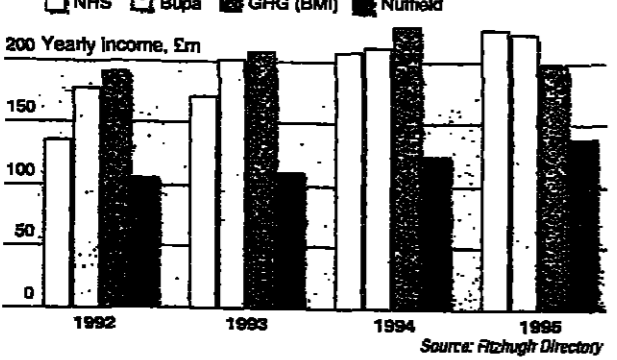
Investigators have been trying to unravel a series of transactions, which also extended to a personal bank account controlled by Mr Young in Jersey, the offshore financial centre.

Mr Young was not available for comment yesterday, but since the scandal broke a month ago he has consistently denied he sought any personal gain from his investment strategy and that his superiors approved his dealings.

Morgan Grenfell is expected to wrap up its internal investigation into the three unit trusts within the next fortnight.

Four of Mr Young's superiors - Keith Percy, head of the investment bank's asset management division; Michael Wheatley, compliance director for fund management; Graham Kane, head of Morgan's unit trust business; and Lynn Owen, chief investment officer for Europe - are believed to be fighting for their jobs.

## Private health providers



## Clinton calls summit

continued from page 1

by the last government almost a year ago.

Mr Arafat will argue that Israel's peace process has failed, and that talks should resume on the original peace-land formula.

He will also press for the closure of the tourist tunnel in Jerusalem, which for Arabs has become a potent symbol of Zionist expansion.

The violence which claimed 70 lives last week tapered away over the weekend. There was a brief riot at the site of the new tunnel entrance in the Old City yesterday, when it reopened for a trickle of tourists heavily outnumbered by armed police.

In the territories controlled by Mr Arafat, PLO forces quickly quelled any protests which threatened to turn into

confrontations with Israeli troops.

All the Palestinian self-rule enclaves in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been sealed by Israeli troops. Dozens of tanks have been moved into position around the autonomous areas.

Israeli military sources confirmed that the army had carried out the first two phases of a three-part plan, codenamed Field of Thorns, to contain any Palestinian uprising in the self-rule areas. The third part of the plan, to invade and reoccupy the autonomous areas, has not been activated, they said.

Mr Arafat, in an interview with the Israeli daily Yediot Ahromot, rejected Mr Netanyahu's charges that he deliberately fomented last week's violence. "Members of our

police force did not receive a single order from any officer to open fire against Israelis. When policemen fired, it was only when they felt themselves to be under danger, and saw a need to defend themselves," he said.

Asked if he had used the tunnel dispute as an excuse to grab a political advantage by causing trouble on the streets, he said: "If you [Israelis] knew that we were waiting for an opportunity, why did you supply one? We were simply stunned when we heard about the opening of the tunnel."

A United Nations Security Council resolution over the weekend indirectly called on Israel to close the tunnel while stopping short of outright condemnation. The US abstained.

## Same tour, but different country roads for two American songwriters

### Review

Adam Sweeting

Lyle Lovett/Mary Chapin Carpenter

**I**T WAS 10 years ago that Lyle Lovett first met Mary Chapin Carpenter. He was travelling alone with his guitar, promoting his first album, and she was his support act in a club in Alexandria, Virginia.

Low-key Lovett was taken aback to find that his opening act had brought along a full-

scale rock band, but he was mollified when he found they had learned several of his songs and were happy to act as his backing band too.

That night, Carpenter was signed by an A&R man from CBS Records. In the intervening years, Carpenter has established herself as a major American songwriter and substantial unit-shifter, while Lovett has carved out one of the tightest-shaped niches in the record industry.

The contrast between them on this co-headlining bill verged on the comical. Lovett is touring with his celebrated Large Band, a P.T. Barnumesque undertaking featuring

brass and backing vocalists, plus piano, pedal steel, cello and fiddle alongside guitars, bass and drums. It is like a ghostly encounter between Duke Ellington and Bob Wills, conducted by a Marx Brother who nobody knew existed.

In part two, gravity and three dimensions were restored when Mary Chapin and her conventional five-piece combo belted out her songs over a serviceable country-folk-rock backing. Her opening song, Shut Up And Kiss Me, was reminiscent of Bonnie Raitt (gravelly voice, slide guitar); I Take My Chances suggested Bruce Hornsby (stately chord pro-

gressions); and Naked To The Eye sounded like a combination of Raitt and Hornsby.

All perfectly fine, but it merely served as a reminder of the sheer otherness of Lyle Lovett. He concentrated on songs from his recent album, The Road To Ensenada, but that in itself meant a riotous journey through a rapidly-changing patchwork of styles.

A hot-stepping That's Right, You're Not From Texas provided a launch-pad for some fiery interpolations from the horn section and full-throated contributions by the vocalists (who included former Was Not Was men "Sir" Harry Bowens and Sweet Pea Atkinson). Long

Tail Texan offered the feverish delusion of the oblique, lopsided Lovett "riding through Texas to enforce the law", a mismatching of roles on a par with Vinnie Jones addressing the Oxford Union.

Lovett is enjoying his first US country hit in many a year with Don't Touch My Hat, a deadpan declaration of Texan maleness. By comparison, I Don't Love You Any Less ("but I can't love you any more") is a masterclass in classic country songwriting, its centering tune and tempo precisely matched to the bittersweet paradox of the lyric.

This review appeared in later editions on Saturday.

## C&G Mortgage Rate Change

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# Chancellor scoffs at 'foolish' tax cutting ploy

Alex Brummer and Richard Thomas in Washington

**T**HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, last night brushed aside backbench demands for a giveaway election budget insisting that the Tories' re-election hopes rested on the sound management of a growing economy.

Speaking after a meeting of the IMF's policy making group, Mr Clarke said: "A government that intends to win an election does not create problems for itself by behaving foolishly a few months before."

Mr Clarke also seized the opportunity to scoff at those demanding his resignation because of his pro-euro sympathies.

He said it would be absurd for a British chancellor to exclude himself from discussion on the single currency.

Turning to his Budget strategy, Mr Clarke maintained that the upcoming public spending round, ahead of November's pre-election Budget, would be based upon the policy of the Government, which was to get back to balance in the medium term.

Giving a preview of his election tactics, Mr Clarke said: "This government will be re-elected on the basis of the reputation it deserves for competent management" and on the prospect of rising living standards for the next few years.

The Chancellor appears determined at this stage to resist demands from spending departments for a more generous pre-election settlement and from the grassroots for big income tax cuts.

"I am not going to go to the electorate saying vote for me, I cut X off your income tax last November."

Instead, he urged the voters to judge the Government on its growth record.

With stronger high street spending fuelling stronger business activity, the Chancellor has been increasingly upbeat here about the prospects for Britain this year and

next. He now believes that his widely criticised summer forecast of 2.5 per cent expansion is well within reach and that the UK could go for even higher growth, bringing down the jobless rate, until polling day.

He also made it plain that despite pressure from the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, for an immediate rise in interest rates, he saw no inflation threat.

"I make my judgment on interest rates on the basis of real economic indicators" — like the speed of recovery and the length of the dole queue. The Chancellor saw no immediate inflationary pressure, and pointed to subdued wholesale and commodity prices and little sign of upward pressure of pay packets.

Mr Clarke has been put under pressure in Washington over the UK's stubbornly high levels of public borrowing forecast to hit £27 billion this year and put it beyond the Maastricht criteria of 3 per cent of gross domestic product.

With an eye on his critics at home, he stressed that he was not going to allow UK budget policy to be made by the IMF or on the basis of the Maastricht criteria but only on his own goal of bringing the public finances to balance in the medium term.

Any hopes Mr Clarke may have had from escaping from the Dublin row over European monetary union quickly evaporated when he met finance ministers and central bankers from the G7 countries. The US Treasury Secretary, Robert Rubin, led a lengthy discussion on the impact of the euro on economic growth and currency stability.

The Chancellor sought to turn the US focus on EMU to his political advantage, saying: "The idea that the American Treasury Secretary should be interested, but the British Chancellor of the Exchequer should somehow detach himself from all this and seek to wreck the whole project, would be a rather odd proposition."

'They are seen as men with rows of Biro's in their pockets, or bimbos. Neither is true'

— managing director Patrick Scott (below)



Bright outlook... presenter Nadine Dereza rejects the weather bimbo tag: 'I have a journalistic background,' she insists. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODWIN

## All clear for Weather TV launch

Andrew Cull  
Media Correspondent

**T**HE storm clouds that gathered earlier this year have cleared, giving way to a sunny outlook across the whole of the country.

That, at least, is the forecast from Patrick Scott, the managing director of The Weather Channel, which launches into 2 million homes tomorrow as part of BSkyB's multi-channel package.

The battle for supremacy between two rival weather-dedicated TV stations is over. The Weather Channel has bought a 50 per cent stake in the Canadian-owned company running Weather Network and the two are now planning international ventures in partnership.

The Weather Channel has been broadcasting in the United States for 14 years and its blend of rolling forecasts and weather-related features is now crossing the Atlantic with storm force.

Initially, the channel which is currently available on a single cable network, will be transmitted on Sky only between 6-11pm, but other deals are said to be imminent.

A team of eight forecasters will provide 24-hours-a-day forecasts from a tiny studio in London's West End.

Seven of them will be female, because of a severe shortage of male applicants. The Dutch version of the Weather Channel had the reverse problem — it could not find female presenters.

Mr Scott said: "There is this stereotype: they're either



'Tracey Sunshine' look of Ulrika Jonsson, left; and new technology 1975-style demonstrated by BBC veteran Jack Scott

men with rows of Biro's in their jacket pockets, or weather bimbos chosen for their looks. Neither is true."

Presenter Nadine Dereza, who used to announce goalscorers at Wembley Stadium, rejected the "Tracey Sunshine" label attached to ex-forecasters such as Ulrika Jonsson and Tania Bryer, characterised by blonde hair and toothpaste-ad smiles.

"I hope we are not chosen for those reasons," she said. "I have a journalistic background and I am fascinated by the weather."

In the United States the Atlanta-based Weather Channel is usually in the top 10 cable services. Mr Scott said it would take three years to break even in Britain, despite



the national obsession with weather.

"We expect the average viewing time to be between 10 and 20 minutes a day," Mr Scott said. The channel's slogan is: "Weather you can always turn to."

There are detailed forecasts every 20 minutes, with local weather every 10 minutes. Information supplied by the Met Office will be fed into the channel's graphics system.

Additional features will examine air quality, ultra-violet levels and pollen counts. Travel and holiday slots are also planned.

Mr Scott said the service would attract three groups of viewers — the fanatics, or weather "amateurs", planners, who wanted to know whether

### A summary

- John Kettley is a Weatherman who was hit for the band A Tribe of Toffs in November 1988.
- Suzanne Charlton had to stand on a six-inch platform to be in camera shot.
- Michael Fish reassured a viewer there was no hurricane on the way on the eve of the devastating 1987 storm. The error has been blamed on a strike by French meteorologists.
- George Cowling, the first TV weatherman, had to take his charts from the Air Ministry to the BBC's studios on the Underground in 1954.
- Forecasters have played key roles in a number of movies, including Nicole Kidman in *To Die For*, Steve Martin in *LA Story*, and Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day*.
- The weather was the star of the current release *Twister*.
- Forecasters cannot wear light blue. If they did their graphics would be superimposed on their clothes.
- The BBC is planning sunburn warnings on a scale of 1 to 10 for exposure times.
- The weather is Britain's third most popular programme and 80 per cent of the population watch it five or more times a day.
- The BBC says isolated showers means a 10 per cent chance of rain, scattered means 30 per cent and occasional means 50 per cent.
- Bill Giles, the BBC's senior forecaster, is planting olive trees at his home in Oxfordshire in preparation for global warming.

### Tributes follow death of game show host Leslie Crowther

Nick Varley

**L**EADING showbusiness figures yesterday paid tribute to television presenter Leslie Crowther, who has died at the age of 63.

The former host of shows ranging from *Crackerjack* to *The Price is Right* died of heart failure in hospital near his home in Bath.

Comedian Michael Bentine led the tributes. "He was a very real friend, a super guy, a funny, funny man and one of the nicest people I know."

Ernie Wise said: "He was a very good performer, he loved his cricket and had a great sense of humour. We all loved him."

Tributes also came from the Lords' Taverners charity cricket team, of which Mr Crowther was a former president. Its director, Patrick Shervington, said he was "one of the greatest presidents" who campaigned tirelessly for disabled and disadvantaged youngsters.

"I have never known anyone so committed to the charity — for which, in 1992, he was quite properly awarded the CBE."

Behind the slick facade which was later to become his trademark, his career was

dogged by darker episodes. The death of his son-in-law, Phil Lynott, of the rock band Thin Lizzy, after years of drink and drugs abuse, sparked the most notorious; a descent into alcoholism in the late 1980s.

He was successfully treated, but spent six months in hospital after a car crash in 1992.

Yesterday his agent, Jan Kennedy, said: "Through all the adversity of his serious car accident four years ago, he never lost his sense of humour. We have all lost a star and a very dear man."



Leslie Crowther: 'a super guy, a funny, funny man'

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Made at Pinewood: Tom Cruise in Interview With The Vampire

## Studio too busy to mark sixty years of film history

Dan Glaister at Pinewood Studios

SIXTY years ago today 1,000 people gathered on D stage for a celebration lunch of salmon, ham and chicken, accompanied by 1928 Mumm Cordon Rouge, before watching Herbert Wilcox direct Anna Neagle in a scene from London Melody.

But this week Pinewood studios in Buckinghamshire, Britain's biggest film studio, is ignoring its birthday, preferring to get on with the business of making films. Pinewood, like many British

studios, is going through something of a boom. With successes including Mission Impossible, Interview With The Vampire, and First Knight, profits have been at record levels for the past two years, and the refurbished stages are booked into next year. A remake of The Day Of The Jackal, starring Bruce Willis and Richard Gere, is about to start filming.

"The best way to celebrate our 60th year is to be here for another 60 years," says Pinewood's managing director,

Steve Jagg. "We've poured a lot of money into the infrastructure to make sure we'll still be here."

Ten years ago, at the time of the 50th anniversary, things did not look so good. A garden party for 2,500 guests was cancelled, there had just been an announcement that Superman IV would not be filmed at the studios, and staffing levels were dropping from more than 800 in 1985 to 170 two years later. Today, although Pinewood itself employs only 140 people, on a

typical day there are 2,500 people at work. Aside from its technicians and its 18 refurbished stages, one of Pinewood's assets is its setting. It was built next to Heatherden Hall, where the 1919 Irish Free State treaty was signed, an event marked in the forthcoming biopic, Michael Collins. It has starred in movies made at the studios: it was Buggy Malone's mansion, the house in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and the huddles' headquarters at the beginning of From Russia With Love.



Sigourney Weaver in Aliens, a success that helped keep Pinewood going through the barren 1980s to its current revival

"It's a very nice place to make films in," says George Perry, author of Movies from the Mansion, a history of Pinewood Studios. "It's also got nice creature comforts. The studio's restaurant used to be the old ballroom of the mansion, and the boardroom has panelling from an old Cunard liner."

Pinewood was built in the 1930s by Charles Boot, a film-struck builder, and J Arthur Rank. The studio soon hit financial problems and production stopped at the end of the

1930s. During the second world war it was requisitioned to make documentaries. After the war, the studio entered its heyday. Oliver Twist and Doctor In The House were made there, Marilyn Monroe made a film at the studio, and Truffaut and Chaplin directed there. Later successes included Aliens and The Little Shop Of Horrors.

But the mainstay was the Bond films, starting with Dr No in 1962. Today the studio is too busy for Bond. "They're trying to get the next Bond

film in there but can't because it's booked up," says Mr Perry. The last Bond film, Goldeneye, met the same fate. Pinewood shares with Disney the distinction of being the only major studios still under their original ownership, but Pinewood's future is uncertain. Early last month, the Rank Organisation hinted that it was preparing to sell up. Movies, apparently, do not fit in with its entertainment and leisure plans. Since then, everything has gone quiet, and Mr Jagg, Pinewood's MD, dismisses the suggestion of a sale as "press speculation".

Should Rank decide to sell Pinewood after weathering the barren 1990s, it would be a strange decision. With the thinking coming around to the idea that a centralised studio system is the best way to revive the British film industry, and not just film-making in Britain, Pinewood and Rank would be ideally positioned to assume the role of Britain's leading producer-distributor.

## Labour plans pre-school pilot schemes

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

LABOUR plans to test new combinations of state and private childcare and nursery education if it wins the election. David Blunkett, the party's education spokesman, will announce this week.

In an attempt to appeal to working parents, the party is preparing pilot schemes for "one stop shops" where parents could buy childcare and take their three and four year olds for schooling.

Nursery education has become a key electoral battleground since the Conservatives announced a voucher scheme which will hand entitlements worth £1,100 to hundreds of thousands of families in February, with the election only two months away at most. Labour is pledged to scrap the scheme, but nursery education is popular in opinion polls, and the party is anxious to be seen to replace vouchers with something positive.

The pilot schemes will involve small numbers of children and be paid for under

the party's "save before you spend" policy by combining existing public funding and means-tested parental contributions. It is modeled on schemes like one set up by Labour-controlled North Tyneside, which combined voluntary, private and local authority co-operation.

Affordable childcare will enable single mothers to work and become less dependent on benefits, Labour believes. All three and four year olds will be entitled to half a day of free nursery education after 18 months of a Labour government under the party's plans.

In North Tyneside the council expanded its nurseries by charging parents who could afford to pay. Places rose from 95 to more than 400, and a non-profit-making company, Childcare Enterprise Limited, was set up, and last year gained a contract to run the local authority nurseries in Brent, north London, which was Tory-run at the time.

## Women QCs 'enjoy reverse bias'

'Complacent attitude' of senior Appeal Court judge attacked

Claire Dyer Legal Correspondent

A SENIOR Appeal Court judge sparked controversy at the weekend when he suggested that some women judges and QCs had got where they were only because of their sex.

Sir Christopher Rose was responding to an accusation from a female barrister that women faced a "hostile environment" at the Bar and in court. He told the Bar Council's conference in London on Saturday: "On the contrary, I can think of one or two exam-

ples, and happily they are very few, where women have been appointed when if they had been men of comparable ability they would not have been."

However, Mary McAleese, pro-Vice Chancellor of Queen's university, Belfast, said there was need to tackle the profession's culture of complacency, "a little of which I heard resonating in Sir Christopher's attitude."

Sir Christopher, who holds the influential chairmanship of the Criminal Justice Consultative Council, called for reconsideration of the rule permitting defendants representing themselves in rape

cases to cross-examine their alleged victims personally. In one recent case the defendant cross-examined his accuser for more than 12 hours over a six-day period.

"The accused representing himself is already precluded from cross-examining a child," Sir Christopher said. "I see no difference between a child victim of sexual abuse and an alleged adult victim of sexual abuse."

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the shadow Lord Chancellor, said he felt the cross-examination in the recent case was "a continuation of the abuse itself."

Lord Irvine warned barristers that an incoming Labour government would cut the high fees paid to QCs in the most expensive criminal cases. The pledge follows disclosures about the earnings of

defence counsel in big fraud trials, which can top £1,000 a day. Six QCs in three of the biggest fraud trials - Guinness, Britannia Parks and Barlow Clowes - were paid more than £300,000 each.

Lord Irvine, a practising QC himself, said 46 per cent of the criminal legal aid budget for higher court cases went on only 1 per cent of cases. There were no standard fees for QCs in such cases, "leaving them as the only practitioners whose fees are left to the indeterminate concept of reasonable fees for work reasonably done."

In the first detailed outline of Labour's plans for the legal system, he said an incoming Labour government would review reform of legal aid and the civil justice system together. This would address

"how the costs of the most expensive cases can be significantly reduced."

Lord Irvine promised a radical overhaul of the system for appointing judges, including a new judicial appointments system, with a strong lay element, to advise the Lord Chancellor. This would require legislation, but in the meantime new procedures to recruit circuit judges by advertisement should be extended to High Court judges. He called for an end to the system of secret soundings, in which candidates are not told what senior judges have said about them.

Lord Irvine promised that Labour would incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, a move supported by senior judges.

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## Vicar keeps worship happy-snappy

Sarah Boseley on the advent of the 30-minute church service



Simple faith... The Rev David Beeton and congregation

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL ROBERTS

TOO hectic a home life for hymn singing? Baffled by biblical jargon? Never fear. The Rev David Beeton has the answer.

Yesterday Wednesday in the West Midlands, famous for the invention of the seamless metal pipe, saw the birth of another innovation - the 30-minute happy-snappy church service.

"We did a survey last year of families who had brought their children for baptism, asking them: 'Why won't you come to church?'" said the Rev Beeton. "They said it goes on too long. I don't understand it, it's boring and the hymns make it sound like a funeral."

He has countered with a service designed to harmonise with "post-Christian culture". Centuries ago, Christianity offered all the entertainment, information, education and moral discipline any small community was going to get. But in the era of Oasis, Ecstasy and Baywatch Babes, it can no longer be assumed that anybody knows what the vicar is on about any more.

"We're trying to make very few assumptions of prior knowledge," the Rev Beeton said. "We consciously try to eschew words that wouldn't usually be understood - words like Redemption. Do you have to use a word people don't usually hear? Their eyes glaze over."

Salvation might be more easily explained, he thought. "I was in the navy for 10 years. Salvation comes from the word salvage; you can use the image of a ship in distress

and another ship going out to the rescue and bringing it back to safety."

The three more traditional services at the 700-year-old St Bartholomew's church attract about 80 people in total. Yesterday's spin quickie brought in 33, most of them young parents with small children. It was held in the modern church hall at the foot of the hill, not in the imposing parish church at the top, still blackened from the industrial revolution.

There was no shuffling in the pews or rustling of hymn books - all the words were projected on to a screen. In place of an organist was Pete Emms with his guitar.

"The congregation loved it. 'It's ideal for me,'" said Diane Carter. "With Emily being so young - she's two - I feel embarrassed if she makes a noise in church."

Sandra Wilde had not been to church since June last year, when she and her husband had Jenna, now five, baptised at the church on the hill. "We felt Jenna should carry on going to church services," she said. But they were busy. They were attracted yesterday by the short service and an area with toys and books where children can play if they get bored.

Only the vicar's son, Kirk Beeton, aged 14, voiced a small doubt. "It clashes with Football Italia on Channel 4," he said, "although not everybody enjoys Italian football, of course." Could he not go to his father's 10.30 service at the church itself? "I usually don't get up that early. And it's a bit long," he said.

the week

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As Bill Clinton summons Middle East leaders, on the street attitudes are hardening

A deep vein of hate

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

THE Israeli-Palestinian clashes of last week have not only gravely damaged the peace process, but have scraped away the thin veneer of tolerance among Jews and Arabs.

"So what do you expect? You give guns to Muslims, it's like giving them to children," said Yossi, a West Jerusalem restaurateur. "Eight months ago I said this would happen. The only surprise to me is that it has taken so long."

On the other side of the city, another businessman, Yussef, explained that it was impossible to expect fairness from "the Jewish". "They want to take everything, and give us nothing. But the Jewish know we want to keep something, so they don't trust us. There is no respect," he said.

In King George Street, West Jerusalem, a group of women had only one concern: their sons, serving in the Israeli army. "Why should he go back to Gaza? I saw it on television, what the Palestinians were doing there. It makes me sick that our boys are there. Let them do what they want," said one.

Politically, Israelis seem much more divided than Palestinians. Several were outraged by the action of the government in extending the ancient Hasmonian tunnel in the Old City, which triggered the clashes. "It's ridiculous and it's dangerous. Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu must have known what he was doing, and what would result," said Rachel, a student. "If he didn't know, why is he prime minister? If he did know, why did he do it?"

In East Jerusalem, which Israel has its way will never be Palestinian controlled. Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has won new respect since his forces fired back at Israeli troops.

"Every time he was giving way," said Adnan, an office worker. "Now I think people have some pride. They saw the Palestinians resisting, for the first time. They didn't like to see people getting killed, but they liked to see their own soldiers shooting."



An Israeli soldier dons his helmet as Palestinians protest at the reopening yesterday of the disputed tunnel in Old Jerusalem. PHOTOGRAPH: JOCKEL FRACK

Palestinian police redeem themselves

Sami Aboudin in Jerusalem

THE Palestinian police who fought highly trained Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last week have won new respect among their people.

"We did not receive orders to fire at the Israelis and we did not wait for one," said a policeman. "We acted out of our own will and because of what we saw."

Young recruits — many inexperienced in warfare and short on ammunition — had intense gunfights with Israeli soldiers last week after Israel

opened an archaeological tunnel in Old Jerusalem.

In at least two incidents, the poorly paid Palestinians overran Israeli positions and put up stiff resistance to the better-equipped Israeli army.

"We could not bear seeing Israeli soldiers open fire on our people while we sat silently," said an officer in the Palestinian National Security Forces in Gaza.

Police officers were among the 55 Palestinians killed during five days of violence.

Palestinian forces killed 14 Israeli soldiers and police. Scores were wounded. About 36,000 men and

women serve in six branches of the Palestinian police, according to sources in the International Monetary Fund.

Apart from regular police, Palestinians have paramilitary units, and the Force 17 unit to protect President Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian security forces — accused repeatedly of human rights abuses and corruption — have been used by Mr Arafat to crack down on Islamists responsible for suicide bombings in Israel.

Last week's confrontations gained Palestinian forces new respect with their people, but

under the self-rule accord with Israel, Palestinian police

are allowed to carry light weapons. The deals also provided for a limited number of machine guns mounted on personnel carriers.

But the Palestinians' armoury is tightly controlled by Israel. In last week's battles, Palestinian forces faced acute ammunition shortages. Police men said they were issued only 30 bullets each.

The missing Israeli airman Ron Arad, who was shot down over Lebanon 10 years ago, is still alive and being held by Islamic militants, a German magazine, Focus, reported at the weekend. — Reuters.

raeli prime minister, was infuriated by the sight of Palestinian officers firing at his troops.

At the core of Mr Arafat's police force are about 7,000 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrillas and Palestinian Liberation Army soldiers who returned from exile in 1994 under an Israeli-PLO deal giving the Palestinians self-rule.

The Palestinian Authority has since recruited thousands of former activists who grew up during the 1987-93 revolt against Israeli rule.

Under the self-rule accord with Israel, Palestinian police

Taliban set for new push north

Phil Goodwin in Islamabad and Reuters in Kabul

THE victorious Taliban militia is massing its forces near the town of Charikar, 25 miles north of the Afghan capital, for what seems to be an imminent confrontation with the forces of the ousted government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The activity came as the Taliban yesterday assumed the role of Afghanistan's new government for peace, and held talks with a delegation from Pakistan and with the United Nations special envoy, Dr Norbert Holl.

The Taliban made what must have been a humiliating meeting for the UN envoy, who conveniently said they reopened the city's main airport which had been closed for more than a year, sparing him a 90-minute drive from the former government's main airbase.

The militia had shamed themselves and the UN when, after taking over the city, they seized the former Communist-backed president, Dr Mohammed Najibullah, from his supposed protection at a UN compound. They shot him and his brother and hung them up outside the presidential palace.

Mr Holl refused to say whether he had raised the issue of the killing of Najibullah, whose Soviet-backed regime encouraged women to get an education. The UN envoy has already expressed his deep dismay at the incident and the UN Security Council on Saturday also deplored the "brutal execution".

The new government yesterday banned any Islamic funeral for the former president. Kabul Radio said a "Namaz-i-Janaza (funeral prayer service) for Najibullah cannot be held because he was a Communist and murderer of innocent Afghans". The government has not said what is to be done with his remains.

Dr Holl spent two hours with the leader of the Taliban governing council, Mullah Mohammed Rabbani, and said his main message was that "the United Nations wants to continue the political dialogue and co-operation with the Taliban". He said he had discussed the question of human rights and hoped there would be "a constructive solution". They are

Beard-growing rule imposed

AFGHANISTAN'S new Taliban government yesterday ordered government employees to grow beards within one-and-a-half months or face Islamic punishment.

An announcement broadcast by the official Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, said the order would apply to government employees and the military. Anyone flouting it would face action under Islamic sharia law. It did not specify what penalties would be imposed.

It said short beards would not be allowed, but it did not explain how long a beard should be or whether beards could be trimmed. — Reuters.

words the Taliban show every intention of ignoring. The militia are tightening their control of life in Kabul daily. They have imposed Islamic law, saying people convicted of stealing will have a foot and hand cut off.

Mr Holl said he had discussed the role of women, along with human rights. "This is an issue and will remain an issue," he said.

The Taliban has told men to report for work as usual, but had said women should stay at home. They have also banned education for women. About 70 per cent of teachers in Kabul are women.

The UN employs many women in its programmes in war-ravaged Afghanistan and had already suspended educational activities in areas captured by the Taliban, a militant Sunni Muslim movement which grew out of religious schools in refugee camps in Pakistan.

Taliban fighters have entered foreign relief agencies in the capital to find out if women are working there, aid workers said.

Mr Holl said that in pursuit of national reconciliation he would go to the northern town of Bazar-Sharif soon to talk to the powerful Uzbek chief, General Rashid Dostam, who has his own army and small air force. If he contacted him, he would also talk to the ousted president, Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military chief, Ahmed Shah Massoud, who gave up Kabul without a fight and fled north.

Women lose right to pick spouse

Phil Goodwin in Islamabad

A RULING on the right of women in Pakistan to choose their future husbands led to angry protests in the city of Lahore yesterday. They were triggered by a high court judgment that a Muslim woman's marriage is illegal without the consent of her guardian. Without consent, she risks imprisonment.

Last Wednesday's ruling was made in the cases of two women who said they had been persecuted for marrying the men of their choice against their families' wishes. One said her husband had been accused of abducting her even though she wanted to marry him. The other said police had harassed her and accused her of adultery. The judge ruled that a family's rights to have a say about a woman's intended are enshrined in the Koran.

Outraged women's groups

Murtaza murder witness was shot

NEW evidence yesterday cast doubt on police accounts of events surrounding the death of Benazir Bhutto's brother, Murtaza, who was shot dead by police 10 days ago, writes Phil Goodwin.

Police in Karachi say the evidence shows the death of a witness to Bhutto's killing may have been murder and not suicide. The witness was a policeman, who had said he was injured by Murtaza Bhutto's supporters and the prime minister's brother was shot in the ensuing gunbattle.

After he was found dead last week, police said he had killed himself. They now admit the shot that killed him was fired from a distance.

Women's groups are hoping that victory in the high-profile case of Saima Wahed, due to conclude in the coming weeks, will reverse the precedent. Ms Wahed, aged 22, fell in love with a colleague and married him. Her father ar-

gues that the marriage should be declared null because he did not consent to it.

The head of the human rights commission of Pakistan, Asma Jahangir, is defending that case. She said the high court ruling last week was "a great disservice to Islam". It would "open the floodgates for the harassment of women by the authorities".

The ruling is embarrassing for Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who achieved international recognition in 1988 when she became the first premier of a Muslim country.

Slow back in power, she portrays herself as leading a campaign to improve Pakistani women's rights.

The human rights commission says there has been more discussion of women's issues under Ms Bhutto, but her government has made only several minor initiatives, and discrimination against women was still ingrained in society by laws and customs.

Suu Kyi crackdown isolates Burma

Nick Cunningham-Bruce in Bangkok

BURMA'S military rulers yesterday accused the opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, yesterday of seeking to instigate riots to justify arresting her followers in the National League for Democracy.

The crackdown, however, appears to have complicated Burma's plans for gaining admission next year to full membership of the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

The ruling junta's denunciations of Ms Suu Kyi came as troops and armed riot police continued to block roads leading to her house on University Avenue, in the capital, Rangoon.

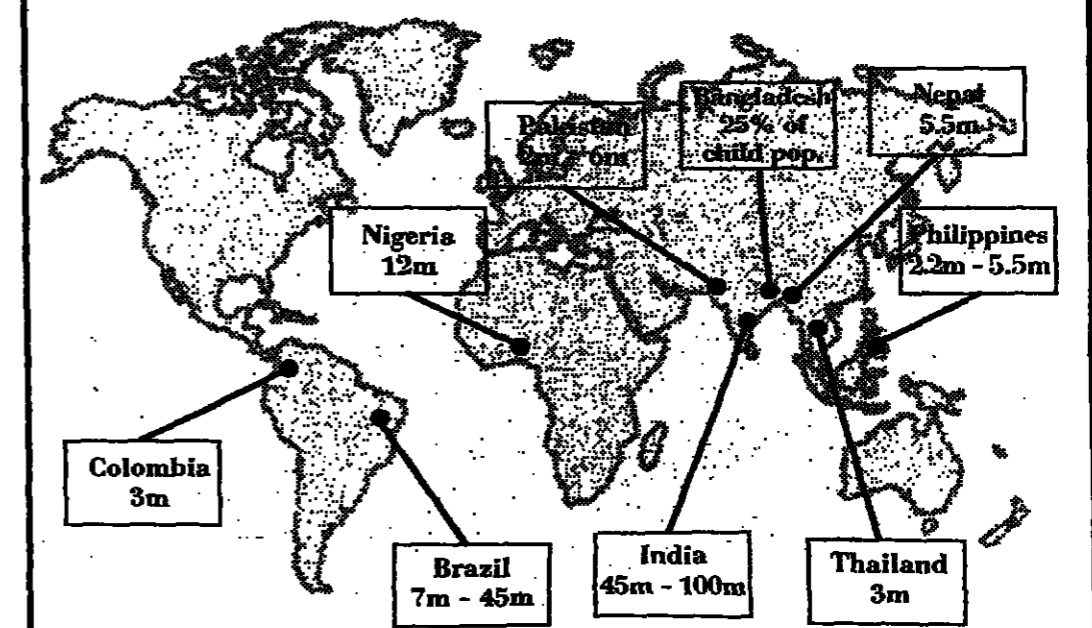
The Burmese authorities are still holding at least 109 members of the party, who were seized on their way to Ms Suu Kyi's house for a congress.

Authorities blocked the congress to pre-empt demonstrations but the detentions are only the latest step in a campaign of arrests aimed at stifling NLD political defiance and intimidating its supporters. The authorities said Ms Suu Kyi was free to come and go as she pleased, but the police action prevented her from making her usual weekend speech to crowds outside her house.

The media said her weekend speeches not only broke the law, but she had also recently "instigated those who come to listen to her roadside talks to be courageous and defy the government without timidity".

The crackdown has prompted some of Burma's ASEAN neighbours to reconsider plans for its accession. Officials in Bangkok described the crackdown as "a very serious problem" for ASEAN and "a setback" that contradicts Sior's pledge to develop a multi-party democracy.

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD AND BONDED LABOUR HISTORIC LONDON CONFERENCE



FIGURES IN MILLIONS FOR CHILD AND BONDED LABOUR AROUND THE WORLD Sources ILO & UNICEF

"Child Labour is a melancholy reality around the world but it casts its longest shadow on the poor countries of the south.

Third World Governments must do their part.

But only a more just world order with financial and political support to poorer countries can truly defeat the twin enemies of child and bonded labour."

Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan

For copies of the London Declaration on child and bonded labour and more information on how you can help the campaign contact ICACABL at 128a Tooley Street, London SE1 2TU.

Profile, G2 page 10
Pimlott's big worry wasn't so much finding out what the Queen thinks... but rather that colleagues and comrades — his wife even — might reckon that he was smudging a so-far impeccable CV by getting involved with a politically very incorrect opus.
John Cunningham on the Queen's new biographer

John Pimlott

مكاتب التحرير

# Rwanda genocide is a lie, court told

Chris McGreal in Arusha, Tanzania

**L**UC de Temmerman's defence strategy is as brazen as the crime itself. Standing before the first genocide trial since Nuremberg, the Belgian lawyer denies there was any slaughter of Rwanda's Tutsis. And if there was a genocide, then the real victims were the Hutus. "It is going to come out clearly that it is not Hutus who are guilty," Mr De Temmerman said before the trial. "There was no genocide. It was a situation of mass killings in a state of war where everyone was killing their enemies."

Arusha last week and was postponed for a month. But in those two days, the court was given a disturbing insight into defence tactics. Leaders of the deposed Hutu extremists regime have tried to portray the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Tutsis in 1994 as a spontaneous tribal uprising which they tried to prevent. Mr De Temmerman is rewriting history differently. He is the most vocal and belligerent of the defence lawyers, and he makes no bones about the contempt in which he holds the international tribunal. "The goal here is political, not to find justice and truth," he told the court. "Twice during a single hearing, the judges rapped him over the knuckles after he

swore in French. Afterwards, he accused the judges of being part of an international conspiracy against Hutus, and said he would use a Belgian law to charge them with crimes against humanity. The stocky, puffy-faced Belgian represents Georges Rutaganda, the vice-president of the notorious interahamwe Hutu militia which spearheaded the genocide. Mr Rutaganda is dying of an undiagnosed disease, believed to be AIDS, and is unlikely to make it to a full trial. Mr De Temmerman brushed aside prosecution evidence that the former leader had dispatched Tutsis to be tortured, raped and cut their victims to pieces. "Mr Rutaganda is accused of sending Tutsis to road-

## Clinton approves plan for African 'crisis army'

**P**RESIDENT Clinton has approved a plan to organise, train, equip and help deploy an all-African military force of 10,000 troops to intervene in that continent's crises, senior administration officials said. The African Crisis Response Force would be sent to countries where insurrection, civil war or campaigns of genocide threaten mass civilian casualties. It would not intervene in the fighting, but would establish and protect safe areas where civilians could gather and receive relief aid. The United States is prepared to fund half the cost of the force, and is counting on European allies to come up with the rest, officials said. The US would also airlift the troops. But the force will be created only if African and European countries agree. — Washington Post.

Among other things, Mr De Temmerman is keen to push the theory that Habyarimana was assassinated by a French mercenary in league with Tutsi rebels. More sober minds believe the president was killed by Hutus who were even more extreme than he. But above all, the Belgian lawyer aims to challenge the

very basis of the charge. The tribunal must establish what genocide is. What are we doing here today? I have often asked myself that question," he told the judges. While at times claiming there was no genocide, he is equally comfortable with another form of revisionism — that the victims were Hutus, not Tutsis. "There are a million people dead, but who are they? They are 800,000 Hutus and 200,000 Tutsis. Everyone was killing but the real victims are the Hutus. So they've got this so-called genocide all wrong," he claimed outside the court. A spectator wondered if Mr De Temmerman would argue that the Tutsis killed themselves to spite the Hutus. Other defence lawyers are none too comfortable with their colleague's tactics. Johan Scheers, who represents the first of the accused to go on trial, not only believes the genocide took place but says he is not yet convinced of his client's innocence. Still, Mr Scheers has adopted Mr De Temmerman's bulldozing approach. Last week he accused the prosecution of withholding evidence, and threatened to walk off the case unless he was given more time to prepare his defence of Jean-Paul Akayesu, a former mayor accused of genocide and crimes against humanity. And he shares Mr De Temmerman's doubts that there can be a fair trial. "They have to convict Akayesu. He is the first one to go on trial, so they can't possibly let him go," Mr Scheers said.

## Nigeria faces abuses inquiry

San Black in New York

**C**OMMONWEALTH governments agreed last night to send ministers to look at human rights abuses in Nigeria but they held off discussing further sanctions. The eight-nation Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, meeting in New York, announced that the mission would go ahead despite fears that access to dissidents would be restricted. The organisation has been struggling with the Nigerian question since the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight fellow Ogoni activists during last November's Auckland summit. Nigeria was given a two-year deadline to reform or face expulsion from the 53-member body, but Commonwealth diplomacy, which depends on consensus, has been plagued by dissent. Relations among members were further eroded when the group called off a planned mission last month after the Nigerians refused to let ministers meet human rights campaigners. Canada, Jamaica and New Zealand had all called for tougher action with the Canadian foreign minister, Lloyd Axworthy, last week angrily describing fellow ministers as "apologists" who were allowing Nigeria "to get away with" the executions. Mr Axworthy had insisted that the Commonwealth must reserve the right to meet opponents of the regime abroad and not have the terms dictated by the Nigerians. South Africa, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Malaysia have been more cautious, while Britain has stayed on the fence. The New York meeting came after a Human Rights Watch report chronicled alleged murders, torture and oppression in Nigeria. General Sani Abacha's government nullified elections — held to choose a civilian government to replace years of military rule — and jailed Chief Moshood Abiola, who was popularly believed to have won.



Chan Lai-ying, sister of the Hong Kong political activist David Chan, who died Thursday after jumping from a ship in protest at Japan's claim over a group of islands in the East China Sea, is comforted at a vigil in Hong Kong's Victoria Park yesterday in memory of her brother. PHOTOGRAPH BY VINCENT YU

## Lawyer's motion suggests CIA drug link

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

**P**OLICE in Los Angeles are examining a drug case that a lawyer is claiming provides further evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency was linked to the smuggling of cocaine into America's inner cities during the 1980s. Three government inquiries — into the CIA and justice department, and by the House of Representatives' intelligence committee — are already under way after

recent allegations of a CIA drug connection. The allegations were provoked by the case of the Los Angeles drug trafficker "Freeway" Ricky Ross, which was reported as part of a series last month in the San Jose Mercury News of California. Now Julian Dixon, a Los Angeles congressman on the intelligence committee, is reviewing a legal petition filed in 1990 by Harland Braun, a prominent California lawyer, in the case of a corrupt Los Angeles sheriff's deputy convicted of complicity in drug dealing. At the time, the motion was little publicised because the judge banned it from the trial and ordered it to be sealed at the prosecution's request. Mr Braun offered mitigation for his client the fact that deputies recovered search warrants during a drug case in 1986 entered the home of an alleged money launderer and encountered a man who identified himself as a CIA agent. The man gave

them the name of his contact at CIA headquarters in Virginia, and was permitted to notify the agency about the search. "Officers discovered films of military operations in Central America, technical manuals, information on assorted military hardware and communications, and numerous documents indicating that drug money was being used to purchase military equipment for Central America," the legal motion asserted. "Officers also discovered blown-up pictures of the suspect in Central America with contras [United States-backed Nicaraguan guerrillas] showing military equipment and military bases."

Mr Braun claimed that after the search all the evidence the deputies recovered "disappeared" from the sheriff's department. He later discovered it had been removed by federal agents. The dispute carrying out the search concluded that the suspect was working with

Oscar Danilo Blandón, a self-confessed drug dealer and Nicaraguan exile, and the same man who turned US government informant and helped to convict Ross. Ricky Ross faces life imprisonment when he is sentenced, which is expected to take place at a hearing in San Diego in November. Mr Blandón was one of two Nicaraguans featured in the series by the Mercury News. The other was Norwin Meneses, who allegedly supplied cocaine to street gangs in the San Francisco Bay area while Mr Blandón concentrated on Los Angeles. Both worked with Colonel Enrique Bermúdez, chief of the CIA's private contra — or counter-revolutionary — army fighting Nicaragua's leftwing Sandinista government at that time. Col Bermúdez, who was murdered in Nicaragua in 1991, was a full-time CIA employee and knew many of its top executives. The report says that in America have long believed that the CIA either condoned or cyni-

### News in brief

## US budget deal hammered out

**A** COMPROMISE on public spending sailed through the United States House of Representatives at the weekend and was hailed by the President Bill Clinton as bipartisan progress towards a balanced budget. The accord grants the president the extra \$5.5 billion (\$4.3 billion) requested for domestic spending, with \$4 billion of that going to education. The new fiscal year starts tomorrow, and without passage of the bill, US federal agencies would be forced to close. The House sent the measure to the Senate where a vote is expected today. The huge spending bill provides \$244 billion for defence and about \$356 billion for domestic programmes. — Reuters, Washington.

## Submarine crew 'was spying'

**T**HE North Korean submarine discovered off South Korea's east coast was spying on roads and military airfields for a larger infiltration operation, Seoul's defence ministry said yesterday. The statement was the most detailed rebuttal so far of the communist North's claims that the intrusion was accidental. The North insists the submarine was on a routine training mission when it developed engine trouble and drifted across the sea border. It has demanded the return of the submarine and its crew, and vowed retaliation for the killing of troops who went ashore. So far, 21 North Koreans have been killed or found dead. One other was captured. Four South Korean soldiers have been killed during the manhunt, which is continuing. The South Korean defence ministry statement said a study of the North Korean agents' belongings showed the intruders had taken photographs of a military airstrip. They also had a map on which they had marked newly built roads, the ministry said. — AP, Seoul.

## Kuwaiti women demand vote

**E**IGHT days before Kuwait's men-only elections, hundreds of lawyers, doctors, artists and other prominent women demonstrated yesterday for the right to vote. Women across the Gulf emirate staged a one-hour work stoppage in support of the protest. "Please stand up and give yourselves the credit for making the impossible happen today," Lubna Seif Abbas told a rally of about 300 women and scores of male supporters. Just 107,000 men will be eligible to vote on October 7 for the national assembly. — AP, Kuwait.

## Zulu reconciliation sought

**L**EADERS from South Africa's two main rival black parties made a rare joint appearance at an rally in the troubled KwaZulu-Natal province yesterday, urging an end to bloodshed between the two groups. The call was issued by the leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the chairman of the African National Congress, Jacob Zuma, at a ceremony in Stanger on the Indian Ocean coast north of Durban. About 15,000 people have been killed in the province over the last 10 years in fighting fuelled by rivalry. — Reuters, Stanger.

## Tiger stronghold captured

**S**RI LANKA'S army yesterday captured the Tamil Tigers' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi, the last big town under the control of the separatist rebels. A military spokesman said the troops who launched an offensive a week ago from the town of Paranthan moved into Kilinochchi, 180 miles north of Colombo, after encircling the rebel stronghold. The Tigers set up a base in the town in April after the army had captured the northern Jaffna peninsula. — Reuters, Colombo.



Egypt reopened King Senefru's Red Pyramid, one of its best endowed pyramid sites, to the public at the weekend, 40 years after the Egyptian military turned the area into an army base. The nearly 4,500-year-old pyramid is in a desert area 15 miles south of the Giza plateau.

## 'Godmothers' join Mafia

**A** REPORT prepared for the Italian parliament and published at the weekend reveals a sharp increase in the number of women charged with belonging to the Sicilian Mafia. According to the interior ministry's report on organised crime in 1995, 69 women were charged with membership or collaboration last year. Five years earlier, the total was just one. "The emancipation of women has freed them to play a role in all areas of society," the report says. "This radical change has not been absent from the closed and hidden world of Mafia-related organised crime." According to the report, "women of honour" still appear to make up only a tiny fraction of Cosa Nostra. It says most of them are employed in "white collar" activities. — John Hooper, Rome.

## Black leaders shun Farrakhan summit

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

**T**HE black American movement launched at last year's Million Man March seemed close to political oblivion yesterday, as a follow-up convention organised by its leader, Louis Farrakhan, ended in failure. The meeting, a "national African-American leadership summit", was convened in St Louis to build on the success of the 1995 march. Organisers had boasted that 30,000 black activists would meet for a convention that would rival the Democratic and Republican gatherings in Chicago and San Diego. Instead only a few hun-

dred members of Mr Farrakhan's Nation of Islam sect came to St Louis and the leading black American leader, Reverend Benjamin Chavis — Mr Farrakhan's key lieutenant — defended the offer of a \$1 billion (about £666.6 million) gift from the Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, which has sparked a confrontation between the sect and the US government. "This is family business," Mr Chavis said, describing the money as a present from one branch of the African family to another. Currently the sect has been barred from receiving the money under US anti-terrorism sanctions imposed on Libya in 1986. The key cause of the movement's failure, how-

ever, is rooted in electoral politics. With polls showing 90 per cent of black voters supporting President Clinton, most African-American leaders see no room for a third force — and have thrown in their lot with the Democratic Party. "The agenda has been clear for months," said Rev Jackson. "We are working to improve turnout in congressional districts where black and brown people can make a difference."

Mr Chavis insisted that black Americans would achieve their goals only if they organised separately. "We've been ignored by Republicans and taken for granted by Democrats," he said. But he made his remarks to a near-empty hall.

**Monthly Interest on your Flexicash Account and Personal Current Account**

As previously advised there will be a change to the way we apply interest to your Flexicash Account and Personal Current Account.

From 1st October 1996 we will begin to apply credit and debit interest monthly rather than quarterly as at present. The first interest application under the new monthly cycle will start appearing on statements from 1st November when interest for the month of October will be applied.

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**Changes to Interest Application Date for Business and Personal Customers**

From 1st October 1996 interest on all accounts on which interest has been credited/debited on the last business day of an interest period will change to the first business day of the following interest period.

This change affects all accounts on which interest is applied on a monthly, quarterly and half yearly basis.

If you have any questions with regard to the above changes please contact your branch or Relationship Manager.

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**Loyalists to a fault**

Labour tremors may come later

LABOUR comes to a wet and windy Blackpool on the verge of possibly its greatest electoral victory and perhaps of its longest period in government. If the opinion polls mean anything at all, Tony Blair will be prime minister next time the party meets. If the latest Guardian-ICM poll — wholly in line with our other regular monthly surveys — was repeated in an actual election, Labour would win 405 seats and have a majority of 151 over all the other parties. Labour would have won places like Bury St Edmunds, Lichfield, and Kettering. The Conservatives, down to 200 seats, would have been broken even more than Labour was in 1983, and would surely take more than a parliamentary term to recover. Maybe none of it will happen. Probably the figures will be less dramatic. But the essential point is true. Labour meets on the threshold of something which a decade or more ago seemed impossible — a return to government.

That possibility will understandably dictate everything that happens in Blackpool this week. In spite of all the temptations and off-stage encouragements to do otherwise, this will be a prodigiously united conference. There is barely a single member of the Labour Party, however disillusioned with Mr Blair's leadership, who intends to rock the boat. The discipline of this once internecine party is now formidable. Labour people are genuinely desperate to win. They regard failure as so horrific that they barely contemplate it. Defeat now would be catastrophic for the Labour Party.

That mood was well captured by the weekend deal over pension reform between the leadership and the unions. Pensions has been a hugely divisive issue within the party for months. Barbara Castle's campaign for the state pension to be re-indexed to earnings rather than prices had become the focal point of a substantial campaign in the constituencies and among Labour's large, welfare-rights following. Yesterday, after phone conversations between Gordon Brown and Jack Jones, the campaign effectively came to an end. There will now be, in government, a national commission on pensions in which nothing is ruled in and nothing ruled out. Not for the first time the trades unions have put party unity first and their anxieties second. It will be interesting to see whether the constituencies — which, for the first time, have a majority of the votes (50 per cent compared with the unions' 49 per cent) — mount any sort of revolt when the issue comes up on Wednesday, but the betting is that the sting has now been drawn.

Yet it would be a mistake to imagine that beneath this disciplined exterior there lurks a loyal and disciplined interior. The Labour Party in 1996 is a surprisingly troubled culture. Many of its members rightly believe that they have been compelled to swallow their doubts in the cause of electoral victory. Their personal confidence in Mr Blair as a potential prime minister, as opposed to a potential election winner, is untested. There is a groundswell of anxiety, reflected in the pensions campaign. There is a deep sense that inequality is being neglected in favour of opportunity — all too often a meaningless concept for the poor. Robin Cook's remarks at the weekend may or may not have been an attack on Mr Blair but they spoke for many. They are echoed this morning in Chris Smith's Fabian pamphlet, *New Questions For Socialism*, which states: "If, after five years of a Labour government, we have not succeeded in turning back the march of poverty, then we might as well pack our bags as a political party and go home." Beneath the loyalism, and the probable endorsement of the party's minimalist economic commitments, this is the great fear. It will not be so silent next year.

From the party leadership's point of view, this week in Blackpool is by far the most dangerous event in the political calendar between now and the election. If it went wrong for Mr Blair, the after-shock would ripple through to polling day itself. It might even tempt John Major into an improbable autumn election. The stakes are so high that all the effort is being applied to preventing any such outcome. But the real objective of this week must surely be to give the party and the country the confidence that a Labour government will work, will achieve good goals, will overturn the terrible legacy of Thatcherism and its aftermath, and will set a proud alternative direction. No one is asking for the impossible. A lot of people are asking for something to make the heart beat faster. Electoral victory, though an absolute precondition for everything else, is not enough. The country needs to want a Labour government, not merely to want the end of a Tory one. These questions lie in Tony Blair's hands this week. The prospects of his government will depend upon the answers he gives tomorrow, in what is probably the most important speech of his life.

**Tories raise incomes**

Or maybe they don't

ONE reason the Conservatives won the last election was because they paid for a nationwide poster campaign warning people how much they stood to lose from higher taxes if Labour won. A public post-mortem is now being conducted over the Conservatives' record in office and, with any luck, we may get a conclusion before the next election. It started a couple of weeks ago when the Conservatives put posters up claiming that since the last election the take-home pay of the average worker and his family had gone up by £700 after allowing for tax and inflation. This claim was repeated in the newspaper adverts taken out by Central Office to recruit disillusioned trade unionists to the party.

Labour replied (in a letter from Alan Milburn, shadow treasury minister, to Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney) with a rather different conclusion. Far from real income going up since the last election, it had actually declined by £131.24 for a two-adult, two-child family, according to Labour. Central Office has promised to reply this week to Mr Milburn's letter. In the best of all worlds, one or other of the parties would, at some stage, admit that they were wrong, but past experience tells us that this is slightly less likely to happen than for pigs to take to the air. Why not refer this discrepancy of £331.24p to independent arbitration organisation (the Electoral Truth Society?) with both sides bound by the outcome? If such an organisation continued to exist until the final day of the election campaign the electorate might at least be able to vote on the basis of facts rather than postulated fiction.



**Letters to the Editor**

**Israel, Palestine and justice**

**M**ARTIN Woollicott's assessment of the situation in Israel (September 27) leads to precisely the reverse conclusion than that which he asserts. It is certainly not in assuming the intention of many Palestinians that a sovereign Palestinian entity carved out of Israel is but a first step in their overall objectives, how does he manage to conclude that such a state would secure peace in the region, given that, after only 100 days of stalemate, the newly-acquired force of Palestinians is willingly used against Israeli soldiers.

Does he assume that a national Palestinian army would forget the apparent aspirations of its people (and presumably its own soldiers)? Michael Sedgley, London N1.

**M**ARTIN Woollicott rightly questions the moral credibility of Israel because of its failure to accommodate the original inhabitants of what was then Palestine (Israel, caught again in the moral maze, September 28). However, the 20th century

saw the creation of many states where original inhabitants were forced to become refugees in their land of birth.

Israel and Pakistan were both created in areas where an indigenous population was forcibly uprooted in order to make way for immigrants. While India recognised Pakistan and made every effort to accommodate the Hindus and Sikhs displaced by the creation of a new Muslim state, Arab countries turned a blind eye to the plight of the displaced Palestinians. Randeep Singh Bains, Gants Hill, Essex.

**Y**OUR leader (Pull back from the brink, September 27) offers praise for the mild, critical diplomacy by countries such as Britain and France in response to massive human rights violations by Israel. What is not mentioned is the obligations that all high contracting parties (including Britain, France and the US) have in international law to enforce the humanitarian provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the aim of which is to protect peoples (such as the Palestinians) under occupation by a foreign power. Israel is in clear breach of this convention and of its human rights obligations under the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights. The international community must exert far more pressure, including consideration of economic sanctions, to protect the Palestinian civilians. Daniel Maschover, Stephen Craig, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights, London WC1.

**M**R Perea has stated that neither he nor Mr Rabin would have allowed this "needless" tunnel. The United Nations implicitly accepted the *de facto* division of Jerusalem between Arabs and Jews following the 1948 war and subsequent general assembly resolutions have all unequivocally declared "null and void" all Israeli attempts at annexing Arab East Jerusalem, which was captured in 1967. Religious nationalism should not be allowed to dictate the future of Jerusalem or the wider issues of Arab-Israeli relations. La'ayy Mifwar Al-Rimawi, Law Department, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE.

**M**R Netanyahu says: "My family came here to this land 100 years ago. For me to think that this is a strange land which I have to discover, is abhorrent." But this is precisely how Palestinians feel, with far longer patrimony and with equal religious roots. Ken Norman, Bowness-on-Solway, Carlisle CA5.

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**With the benefit of foresight, we guess who'll get the cash**

**Y**OU ask why the Old Left rubbishes the New Labour proposal on child benefit (Fairer for poor pupils, September 23). There is at least one excellent reason, which you give by saying that "Labour would be redirecting money from those who don't need it to those who do." The Tory word is targeting; the proposal is for another means-tested benefit. There is abundant evidence that means-tested benefits stigmatises those who claim them, are expensive to administer, and are not claimed by a significant proportion of those entitled. By all means take money from those who do not need it and redirect it to those who do — but the income-tax system is much better equipped to do this than the benefit system. Alan Robinson, 11 Commonsidge, Crowle, 5 Humberdale, DN17 4EX.

families will suffer. The solution is to give every 16- to 18-year-old the benefit and to increase income tax at the top end to meet the cost, not simply to penalise most families. Jane Wynn, 38 Agate Road, London W6 6AH.

**I**T IS astonishing that no one, including Gordon Brown, has pointed out that families on income support have their benefit reduced by the amount of child benefit they receive. In effect, the poorest families gain nothing from child benefit whether their children are over or under 16. It is this fact which makes Labour's proposal such a sensible one. Perhaps Labour should go further and disregard child benefit when calculating entitlement to income support. Michael Dumas, 5 Sheen Gate Gardens, London SW14 7PD.

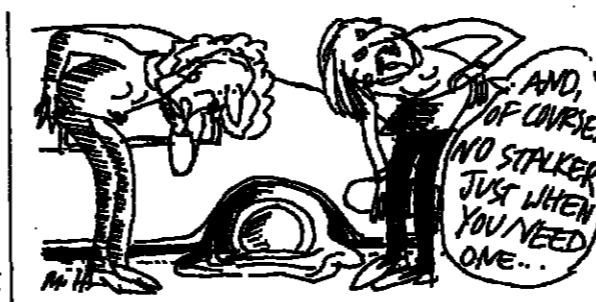
**H**OW dare the Guardian support New Labour's plans for scrapping child benefit for 16- to 18-year-olds. Can't you see that it will lead to inadequate help for low-income families, just exactly what claims to wipe out? Pictures of people at Eton belie the reality. The destitute may benefit, but I would be fairly sure that any family on anything more than subsistence income would lose out. Certainly, all middle-income

**Y**OU overlook one small problem — that the further education sector, which would be closely involved in producing the new generation of skilled young people, is in no condition to deliver the goods. Labour's plans are the right answer to the problem of admitting post-16 students but, without a corresponding increase in FE funding, the plans will fail. Phil Long, 21a Forest Drive West, London E11 1JZ.

**Paul's fall**

**I**M SORRY to disillusion Paul Gambaccini (Interview, September 28), but it wasn't his American accent that so irritated Radio 3 listeners — after all, H C Robbins London has broadcast on the station for many years without causing a revolt. What we all hated so much was his appalling saccharine delivery, allied to a thoroughly emetic script, both of which would have been more at home advertising soap powder. Best to stick to popcorn, Gambi. (Dr) R P Carter, 26 Stanbridge Road, London SW15 1DX.

**P**AUL Gambaccini is understandably critical of the way in which guides BBC managers handled his removal from the network. But no amount of insulting the audience can mask the fact that he failed in his objective. When the show started, he said that the slot had the lowest audience he had had since student broadcasting and the intention was to increase it. Instead, it has decreased. Michael Dempsey, 59 Cephas Avenue, London E1 4AR.



**Psst, there's a lawyer following me**

**T**HE demands for control of our locks or comments (September 27) are a symptom of the victim culture. Contemporary society is characterised by pleas for entitlements based upon one's position in the victim hierarchy. The demands of women's groups demonstrate a perverse reaction to the powerless expertise by so many in society. By claiming victim status a group effectively gives up on its claim to equal rights. Even the rich and untouchable Princess Diana and assertive Madonna claimed to have suffered.

We are all supposedly at the mercy of inconsiderate or anti-social people nowadays, look at the codes of conduct so frequently imposed at work

and in colleges. Any kind of locks or comments can be construed to be harassment, necessitating the intervention of the authorities. The Law Commission's proposals, in abrogating the need to prove intention and replacing it with a test of recklessness, will require that we all become stalker-aware and police our personal interactions to legalised standards. Darryl Rickler, Legal Research Ltd, Freedom House, PO Box 7, 64 Goudge Street, London W1 7FP.

Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mailed letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters

**Love on the line**

**H**OW appropriate that the Conservative Party's love for trade unionists (Advantage, September 23) should appear on the same day that British Airways announces its intention to cut wages of some of its lowest-paid workers by up to 40 per cent. Can we now expect a statement of support from the Prime Minister for BA employees in a fight to retain a civilised wage and, should industrial action ensue, who knows, the sight of Tory MPs manning the picket lines? Tony Tucker, Mayfield Cottage, Kingsley, Cheshire.

**P**ETER Preston (Commentary, September 27) regards George Orwell's concept that Mrs Thatcher's viridically anti-German views are comparable to those of Alf Garnett. He is wrong, of course, as the man was most warmly disposed to the German race. I think it is clear that we should have joined up with Hitler and had a go at the Russians and the Chinese? Michael Penek, 13 Barrow Road, Brighton, Sussex BN1 6NA.

**A Country Diary**

**T**HE LAKE DISTRICT: The drought continues. From the summit of Harter Fell the reservoir of Haweswater seemed barely two-thirds full, the southern arm beyond The Rigg completely dry, the entrance to Riggsdale a stony waste and the white stream along the shore scores of yards wide. Sheep contentedly grazed on newly-revealed meadows between the old stone walls drowned almost 60 years ago but there was an air of desolation about the dale that once was the happy community of Marsdale Green. And high into the fells, the merry, splashing music of Marsdale Waters — the becks and the white stream from the twin mountain tarns of Blea Water and Small Water — was stifled, the waterfalls and sliding pools now mere trickles down blackened rocks. High above the Nantidale we looked down on Kentmere reservoir, another

waste of stone and mud with a small pool in the middle, evidence of the effectiveness of the sealing of the outlet pipe after the reservoir had been emptied. It is now filling itself naturally from the fall becks and we thought the pool very slightly larger than a week earlier. We argued with mountain-bike riders on the passes that bestraddle Harter wondered at the patience of the twitchers quartering the fells through binoculars for sight of golden eagles, and admired the enterprise of the ice-cream salesman who drives to the dale-head every day from Marryport in the hope of trade from perching walkers. There were a few people about but the anti-cyclonic gloom that has been afflicting these parts of late, made a rather sad scene. Only a rare glimmer of sunlight on the lively, mirrored pool of Small Water lifted the spirits. A HARRY GRIFFIN

**More white heat and less wallpaper, please**

**Endpiece**

**Roy Hattersley**

**M**Y DECISION to go to Scarborough for the weekend on the Labour Party's conference opened in Blackpool may have been an act of subconscious rebellion. For a spa, looking out to sea from the foot of the South Cliff, it is, or ought to be, one of Old Labour's holy places; it was there that Hugh Gaitskell vowed "to fight and fight again" to save the party that he loved, and in the same hall, Harold Wilson promised to harness the white heat of the technological revolution to the rusty old carriage of Britain's post-imperial economy. For people who like a little poetry with their politics, Labour And The Scientific Revolution, the title subsequently given to the new party leader's address, lacked

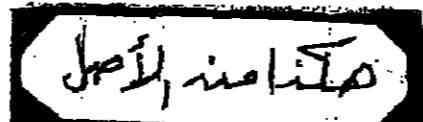
romance. But at Scarborough in 1963 there was, as there will be in Blackpool in 1996, the smell of victory in the air. So, we all cheered our heads off in the hope of building a world fit for statisticians and engineers to live in. Last Saturday, I went to Scarborough with a solemn purpose that I realised, while just once again in York, had a strange, indeed perverse, connection with Harold Wilson's determination to bring our capital-starved industry up to date: I was on my way to speak at the dinner that concluded the William Morris centenary conference. And if Morris had been at Blackpool in 1963, admittedly unlikely since he died in 1965, he would have stood up and hissed when the Leader of the Opposition announced his promise to put a computer on every street corner; for, as well as being a natural agitator, he was one of those people that believed the best way of moving forward was to re-create the past. When, back in the spring, I

accepted the invitation, I thought I knew enough about Morris to fill the gap between the loyal toast and Auld Lang Syne. Then I read the conference programme and noticed that, in the days before my guest performance, the deliberations had been enlivened by lectures on William Morris and the Aesthetic Sunflower and William Morris and the Icelandic Sagas. I decided that, at the very least, I needed to refresh my knowledge. So, for the first time for 40 years, I read *News From Nowhere*. I was less impressed by the arcadian dream of turning Trafalgar Square into an orchard than I had been in my impressionable youth. *News From Nowhere* is full of noble aspirations for the complete fulfilment of the working man by the creation of a society in which the poor are required neither to make, nor to live, surrounded by the second-rate. But it seemed an essentially interior decorator's sort of socialism, the ideology of a man who designed and made beautiful fabrics. I am more

interested in equality than in Liberty's Reading again Morris's analogy of the New Jerusalem, I marvel that one man could be so right in his description of society's problems but so unrealistic in his analysis of how they came about, and so justified in his call for social revolution, yet so absurd about the form it should take. I would neither wish nor dare to argue with the aims that Morris set out in *How I Became A Socialist*. He hoped for "a condition of society in which there shall be neither rich nor poor, neither master nor master's men, neither idle nor overworked, neither brain-sick workers by brain nor heart-sick workers by hand — in a word, a society in which all men would be living in an equality of condition". Amen to that and to the arguments advanced in *News From Nowhere* that crime is often the result of unequal distribution of property, that sexual equality is the natural order of the universe and that every man and woman has a

common right to see what is more pure and beautiful. High marks for analysis; but the man with enough practicality to believe that he "did not need to understand Marx's theory of surplus value in order to realise that employers exploited their workers" hit upon an explanation, and a remedy, for Britain's unhappy condition which was clearly absurd. He really did believe that, in some previous Arcadia, the world was morally different. And he did honestly imagine that *The Fall*, which had been brought about by the "boiler and piston" could be reversed by a return to the habits of Merrie Old Medieval England. "Owing to the extensive use of machinery and the division of labour, the work of the proletarians has lost all individual character." Perhaps Marx and Morris were right about that. But the future depends on harnessing the strength of modern technology not pretending that it can be moralised out of existence. It is not possible to take seriously, at least as a political

philosopher, a man who writes: "Apart from the desire to produce beautiful things, the leading passion of my life has been a hatred of modern civilisation." The "backward glance" is one of the most seductive, as well as one of the most dangerous, strands in socialist philosophy. It is only necessary to repeat William Cobbett's reflection that "There was a time in England..." to feel an irresistible nostalgia for our imaginary arcadian past. For the humble and meek, life was rotten in medieval England. It improved with the mechanisation of manufacture and the development of science and technology. And it will continue to improve, as Harold Wilson said over 30 years ago, while we move with the industrial times. The golden age will not be built by smashing machinery but by organising its output for the benefit of what Morris called the commonwealth. The golden age, as every socialist should believe, is in the future, not the past.





مكتبة النور

Rome diary

John Hooper

IT'S NOT that I'm complaining. The people I talk to, back at the Guardian, include many good friends. It's just that they don't show a lot of, well, respect.

And that is something which, living in Italy, you rather come to expect. The first thing I do in the morning is switch on the radio. In Britain, the newscasters just come crashing into your home without a word of hello. Here, they edge themselves through the tradesman's entrance and into the kitchen, bidding good morning to their "gentle ascoltatori" ("courteous listeners").

I drop in at the cafe by the newscasters after buying the papers, I am sure to be greeted with a deferential "Buongiorno, signore". But then, signore, or "sir", is the very least one can expect. When I get to work, there are usually letters and faxes waiting. The faxes will all have been sent for my *correspondenza*. On the envelope of some of the letters, I will find the words "distintissimo" or "most respected", and the letters inside will begin *Egregio signore* ("Dear" but "distinguished sir").

If I need some cuttings, I go to the library of the newspaper where I am based. In spite of the fact that we have a friendly - even joking - relationship, the librarian would not dream of calling me anything but *Dottore*. The cashier in the school where I teach is no exception. After taking my money, she gave me my change saying: "They are, Professor".

Signore, Dottore and Professore are all rungs on an invisible ladder that, for a very select few, leads all the way up to *Comandante*. Commandante is actually a title awarded by the Italian state, but to get called in public you pretty much have to be Gianni Agnelli.

Somewhere between Dottore and Professore, a lot of professional people get stuck with their occupational titles: *Avvocato* (Lawyer), but also *Architetto*, *Ingegnere*, and others. Nor are these just for letters and nameplates.

I was in a restaurant when a man in a suit walked in and was greeted with "Your usual table, Accountant?" It is all part of that least expected aspect of Italian life - what Italians themselves call *formalismo*. Holidaymakers come here and see a nation of engaging people who smile and laugh a lot, and form the idea that Italians are an easy-going, easy-going bunch.

The reality is a country in which a 19th century mandarin would have felt perfectly at home. And it has evolved a language that allows for microscopic calculations of sentimentality. There is the usual distinction in a Latin tongue between formal and informal versions of "you" (*tu* and *lei* in Italian). But there are also greetings and farewells that are appropriate to each and others between which allow you to modulate the degree of formality.

*Buongiorno* is right for someone with whom you use *lei* and *ciao* for someone with whom you use *tu*. In part, *formalismo* is a product of Italian generalised mistrust of all but those related by blood or marriage - a phenomenon that has been blamed for everything from the power of the Mafia to the cult of the *evangelista*. At all events, they have a remarkable talent for maintaining their distance while remaining cordial, even warm.

In part, I suspect, *formalismo* is also a consequence of the fact that Italy has undergone a social revolution of the kind that transformed British attitudes in the sixties. And that in turn may be a result of its never having experienced a leftwing government. This is a country in which the working classes still "know their place", and the purpose of a lot of the *formalismo* is to assure the middle and upper classes of that fact. Foreigners present a unique problem because it is so difficult to work out where they fit in. I happen to wear a beard of the sort which, in Italy, is much favoured by officers in the army and the Carabinieri. A few months after my arrival in Rome, I was sitting up in a cafe round the corner when the cashier remarked that he hadn't seen me for a bit. "No," I said. "I was in Palermo for a while. Then in Naples." "Not at the organised crime conference?" he asked. "That's right," I said. "Yes."

I returned to the bar to pick up my papers, and as I walked past his desk to the door, he gave me a deferential nod, a knowing smile, and touched his forehead with the tips of his fingers in a brief salute. "Arrivederci, Comandante," he said.

Back to the black arts of Blackpool

Commentary

Ian Aitken

DEAR OLD Norman Willis, who used to run the TUC in the intervals between a writing witty poems, possesses a large repertoire of satirical songs which he used to perform late at night during party or union conferences. The favourite was a number entitled "I am the man, the very fat man, who waters the workers' beer".

Almost as popular was a song, set to the tune of *Ilkley Moor Baat 'At*, which began: "I put a resolution down/ For the conference that was being held at Blackpool." It consisted of a verse by verse account of the devious ploys exercised by the platform to frustrate his resolution. The refrain went: "It was never seen again/ It was never seen again/ It was never seen again".

This good-humoured parody always got a big cheer from Norman's audience, since its members had either practiced the ploys which it enumerated, or had been on the receiving end of them.

Such things were part of the rich folklore of Old Labour conferences, where successful chicanery was a matter for pride rather than shame, and everyone knew the game was played with an exceedingly hard ball.

So when it emerged yesterday that a deal had been struck between the leadership and the big unions, whereby Barbara Castle's plea for a return to the pensions policies of past Labour governments would be defused in advance of Wednesday's vote, it felt just like old times.

The only real surprise was that the party leader's team of youthful Ministers, known professionally as Blair's Babes, actually understood the black arts described by Norman Willis - and even knew how to work them.

Baroness Castle probably doesn't share this vague sense of nostalgia (though she looked surprisingly sanguine about it on the Frost show yesterday morning) but she must at least have felt a strong sense of déjà vu.

As an old Bevanite, she was a victim of just such conference stitch-ups on countless occasions during the 1950s. Famously, she became a victim once more in the late 1960s, when the unions and their representatives at Westminster destroyed her plan for a reform of trades union law - a plan which might

well have deflected the far more stringent measures of the Heath and Margaret Thatcher.

But the pleasing paradox of the present stitch-up (if such a thing can be described as pleasing) is that one of those who shares the status of victim with her is Jack Jones, the man who headed the Transport and General Workers' Union when Barbara's trades union reforms were put to the sword.

When Harold Wilson famously told Hugh Scanlon of the engineering union to "get your tanks off my lawn, Hughie," Jack's armoured brigade was on the Number 10 grass alongside. Now he leads the organisation of OAPs which has spearheaded the demand for a living pension.

Mr Jones, who knows a thing or two about the effectiveness of stitch-ups involving vast union block votes, seemed willing yesterday to acquiesce in a deal whose questionable quid pro quo is a pledge to conduct yet another in-depth review of pensions policy.

Lady Castle, on the other hand, made it clear yesterday that she regards promises of that kind as wholly inadequate, bearing in mind what has happened to earlier Labour policy reviews like the Borrie Commission on social justice. That body,

whose creation by John Smith was greeted with fanfares of trumpets, has suffered exactly the same fate as Norman Willis's resolution - it was never seen again.

So the woman who has been derisively dubbed the Passionaria of Pensions by my former colleague and SDP activist, Polly Toynbee, now seems intent on going through the motions of a conference floor revolt, in what looks almost certain to be yet another defeat at the hands of the block vote.

At 85, it seems likely to be her last, but by no means her least honourable, battle. Yet, looking disarmingly tiny in an enormous hotel armchair, she assured David Frost yesterday that she wasn't to be bought off by offers of spurious reviews.

And quite right too. For this is not a case of Old Labour's last stand, easy though it is to project it in those terms. The reality is

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that, even if Barbara disappears from the scene, the issue she has raised will not. People will continue to grow old - even people who are quite young now - and they will continue to need a decent income in retirement. Meantime, the benefits are no answer for those who believed they had already paid for an honourable entitlement to security in old age.

They have a right to ask how it is that a Blair govern-

ment in 1997 cannot afford the comprehensive welfare state created 50 years ago by an Attlee government which was struggling at the same time to rebuild an economy devastated by six years of total war. If Attlee could do it, why can't Blair?

An answer to that question was offered by John Kenneth Galbraith in an article in yesterday's Observer. He recorded the extent to which the prosperous American middle classes are sustaining their own comfortable lifestyle by waging war on the poor. Not only had these people no intention of paying taxes to relieve this suffering - the well-off had discovered a positive interest in keeping it going. High unemployment, Galbraith argued, was now seen as the best weapon against inflation.

It would be monstrous to accuse Tony Blair and Gordon Brown of endorsing this sort of approach to economic policy. Both are decent, compassionate men. But the climate of thought which their tax-and-spend policies reflect has almost certainly been infected by such attitudes among British middle class voters - the people who, in Robin Cook's view, are in danger of becoming Labour's prime electoral target.

Against this background, it is deplorable for Mr Blair to assert (as he did in an Observer interview yesterday) that to favour increased taxation and public spending is to be guilty of "intellectual laziness".

He can't possibly be suggesting that a literary Slavophile like Roy Hattersley suffers from sloth. Or - still more absurd - that Professor Galbraith doesn't stop to think before he writes. That level of debate isn't worthy of New, Old or even Ancient Labour, and should be left to Dr Mawhinney.

Why rail rage is a feminist issue



Ros Coward

ALONG WITH the usual delays and cancellations which make rail travel so unappealing, a new phenomenon has emerged: rail rage. Recently I witnessed a woman at Euston, sobbing her protests while the rail police relieved her of a penalty fare. I also saw two distraught students being refused the cheap fares to which they were entitled. They had run for the train without a ticket.

The new Eurostar posters displayed prominently on most platforms mentions road, taxi, and baggage-reclaim rage. Rail rage is conspicuous by its absence. But rail operators would have to be even more thick-skinned than the Labour leadership not to notice current levels of customer discontent. The Central Rail Users Consultative Committee has just reported "an unrelenting upward trend of passengers' complaints".

Simultaneously, The National Consumer Council notes a "sharp increase in rail passengers finding customer care 'poor' or 'very poor'".

Some areas of conflict are under investigation. The Rail Regulator has highlighted penalty fares as a worrying by-product of privatisation. Reversing normal legal rights, rail passengers without tickets are assumed guilty. Yet reasons for not having tickets are numerous. Given the infrequency and unreliability of services, you don't let a train go without you. The regulator admits "there is clearly a tension between maintaining the attraction of rail as a walk-on service and educating passengers to allow enough time to buy a ticket." Fine sentiments, except that it is difficult to say "maintaining the attraction" without choking. Complaints and flare-ups are not hiccups in an otherwise attractive service; they are a major expression of travel needs not being served.

Perhaps this disaffection has not been fully recognised because the burden of discontent is unevenly spread. Incidents I witness invariably involve women or young people, an impression confirmed by news reports. Recently schoolgirls were turned off a train for being too wet after a downpour and a young black woman had money removed from her purse as a "handling charge" by lost property. Transport is a feminist issue because women, like other groups without consumer clout, are at the sharp end of the complicated marginal changes caused by privatisation.

tion and the break-up of the network. Because their working patterns are more regular, far more men than women are likely to use public transport at peak times when it is at its most reliable. Most are able to plan their journeys in advance, taking advantage of advance booking deals. Even advanced planning is likely to be derailed by the schedules and needs of others. Women's daily journeys are broken for shopping, longer journeys include breaks for family visits.

There is nothing new about women finding trains unsatisfactory. Kerry Hamilton, author of *Women and Transport*, says "Women have always stayed away from trains. They are expensive and often don't suit women's complex travel needs. There's also an atmosphere of insecurity which women find off-putting. There aren't enough ways to get help should the need arise. The break-up of the network has added complications and difficulties. Punitive fares for not booking in advance, penalty fines, reduction in off-peak services, and an end to tickets which could be used on "any reasonable route" all adversely affect women.

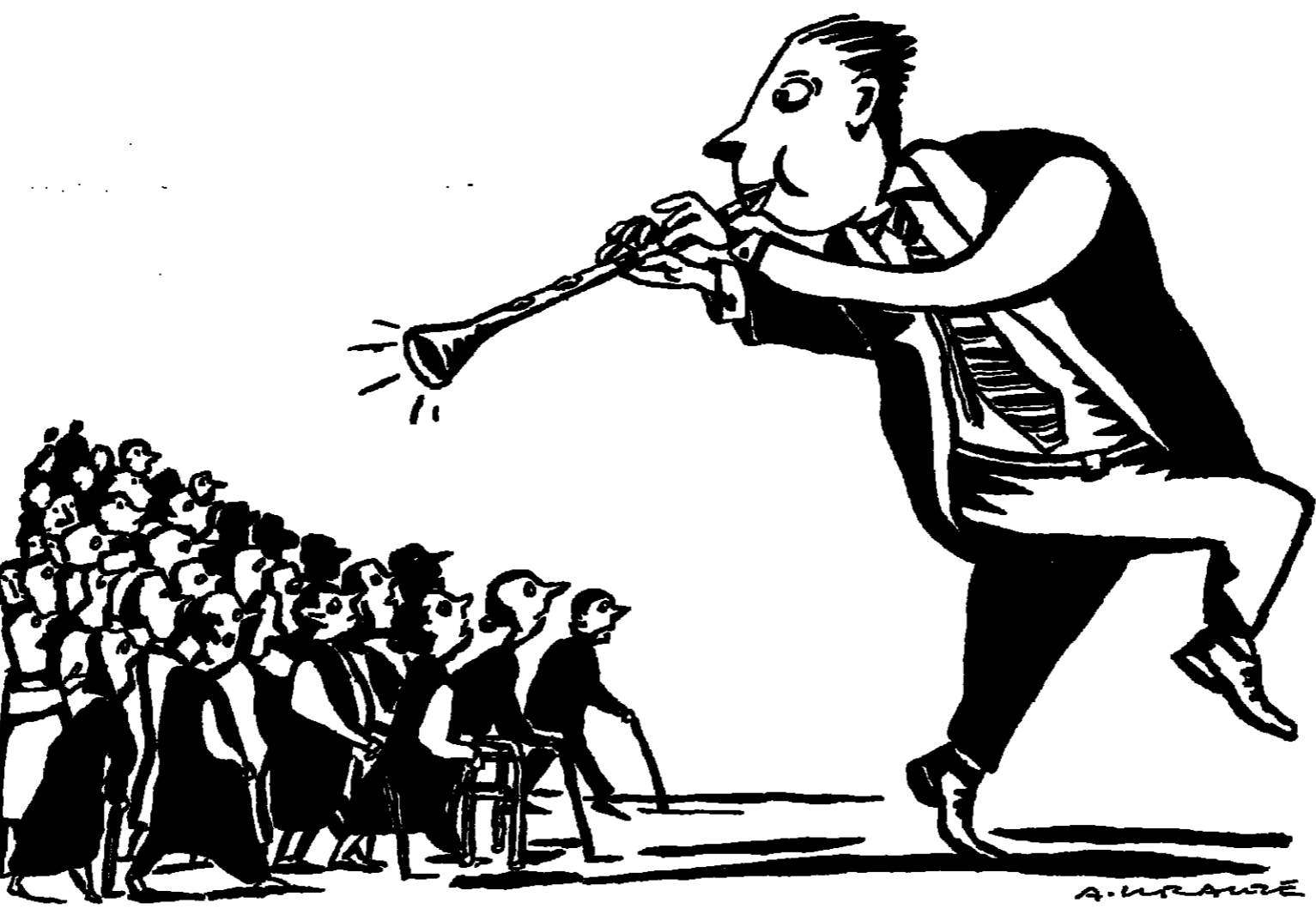
In last week's Daily Mail, Andrew Neil defended privatisation. "Far from being the 'poll tax on wheels'... it is already turning out to be a great success... with plans for investment in trains and services that would have been unimaginable if the railways had stayed in the public sector." But he speaks as a member of the one group to benefit from the increasingly competitive atmosphere for peak routes on straightforward journeys.

EVEN critics of rail privatisation have been sucked into this perspective. They counter optimism by warning that with no real investment, stock and services are declining, private monopolies are being created, and the real tax cost is high. Somewhere they have lost sight of what people want public transport for, what is keeping them off it and, importantly, what might make them use it more. As Stephen Joseph, Transport 2000 director says: "If the only objective is pumping money in, we'll end up with old, totally inaccessible stations and trains replaced by new, totally inaccessible ones. No one is asking what do we want railways to do."

Re-nationalisation may put a stop to growing havoc, but on its own it is no answer to a declining system. This decline is endemic because the needs of only one group are being addressed. The rest of us are looking for more accessible, reliable and safe railways, coordinated with other public transport, so that journeys can be made without obstacle. Without this, the only way to avoid rail rage will be to avoid the railways altogether.

Some 75,000 pensioners have crossed the Irish Sea to enjoy the peace and generous perks such as free television, travel and phone line rental. David Sharrock reports

Off to retireland



STRIKE out due west from the promenade of Blackpool's Golden Mile, leaving behind you transformed British attitudes in the sixties. And that in turn may be a result of its never having experienced a leftwing government. This is a country in which the working classes still "know their place", and the purpose of a lot of the *formalismo* is to assure the middle and upper classes of that fact. Foreigners present a unique problem because it is so difficult to work out where they fit in. I happen to wear a beard of the sort which, in Italy, is much favoured by officers in the army and the Carabinieri.

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700 wounded 50 dead

You've seen the TV reports showing the violent clashes between the Palestinians and Israelis. Over 700 Palestinian people have been wounded and 50 shot dead.

"People are being operated on in the corridors. The wounded are lying on stretchers all over the place. We just can't cope." (Dr Shawki Harb, Director of Ramallah Hospital)

Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) is already there. MAP medical volunteers are working with Palestinian doctors treating the wounded. Local hospitals are appealing for more medical supplies, blood products and medical staff.

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East meets West... the conflict between Endo's Japanese Buddhist sensibilities and his Roman Catholic faith provide the central theme of much of his writing PHOTOGRAPH: ROBIN LAURANCE

Shusaku Endo

# Words across the chasm

**N**O JAPANESE writer has been quite so well known among such a wide variety of the public in his own country and abroad, as Shusaku Endo, who has died aged 73. He was highly regarded for his novels, short stories and plays, which brought him numerous literary awards, and led him to be spoken of frequently as a likely Nobel Prize winner. For many readers in the 25 countries where his books were published, he was the most accessible interpreter of East to West in contemporary literature.

Endo was born in Tokyo but grew up in Dalian, in occupied Manchuria, where his father worked for a bank and where he attended elementary school. The disintegration of his parents' marriage affected him deeply and there are traces of his memories of this painful time in several of his short stories. When his parents eventually divorced, he returned to Japan with his mother. Soon afterwards she converted to Christianity, and it was through her influence and that of the devout aunt with whom they shared a home that Endo became a

Roman Catholic, one of only some half a million in Japan. This sense of being an outsider, acquired through his conversion, was a crucial factor in Endo's development as a novelist and in his ambivalent attitude towards his own country. "I had been baptised as a young boy and was marked out by my peers as a follower of a foreign creed," he once wrote. "I was never physically attacked, but I spent my student days as the object of contempt. For me, Japan [then at war with China] had become a loathsome country, and I agonised daily over how I could bring myself to fight for Japan when the day came."

After briefly attending Waseda University, where he had intended studying medicine, he decided instead to read French literature at the University. After a brief period of military service at the end of the second world war, he became one of the first Japanese students to be awarded a government scholarship to study abroad, and in 1950 he sailed for France. At the University of Lyon he specialised in the work of the Catholic novelists Georges Bernanos, Julien Green and Francois Mauriac and began to immerse himself

in the new culture. "Optimistically I began to believe I had taken the first steps towards acquiring an understanding of Europe," he wrote in his introduction to *Foreign Studies* (1983). "And yet, in about the middle of my second year, I learnt that towering beyond the hill I had scaled lay an enormous mountain... As a Japanese confronted with the tradition, rich cultural heritage and confidence of Europe, I came to sense a certain unfathomable distance."

It was this mountain, or gulf, between East and West, the conflict between Endo's Japanese Buddhist sensibilities and the tradition of Hellenistic Christianity inherited through baptism, that provides the central theme of much of Endo's work, not least his masterpiece *Silence* (1967). This was first brought to the attention of readers in Britain by Graham Greene, a writer whom Endo admired and with whom he was frequently compared. Endo saw it as one of his tasks as a writer to find "a way to France, to the great symphony of Catholicism", to quote from his translator William Johnston's introduction to *Silence*, "a strain that fits the Japanese tradition and

touches the Japanese heart". He took up the subject again in such later novels as *The Samurai* and *Deep River*, in some of his intensely personal short stories, as well as in his play *The Golden Country*. He even wrote *A Life of Jesus* to show his countrymen that the Christian tradition might not be quite as alien as they imagined.

After four years in France, Endo returned to Japan, and in 1954 won the prestigious Akutagawa Prize for his first novel, *The White Man*. His controversial novel *The Sea and Poison*, about a Japanese doctor forced to take part in the vivisection of prisoners-of-war, appeared in 1957.

**T**HEN came *Volcano* and *When I Whistle*, a witty comic novel closely based on his own protected experiences over three years in hospital wards where he endured numerous operations. Endo was dogged by ill health, but this never affected his good humour or his cheerful acceptance of misfortune. During one of his many operations, his heart stopped for a few seconds. "The doctors thought I was dead," he wrote later. "But the devil's own

luck is with me, and I have managed to survive." And survive he did, with the help of his wife, with whom he lived in Tokyo, and his son, to become the leading writer of his day. Endo was always eager to introduce foreigners to the wonders and mysteries of Japan. In 1969 he spent a month there at his invitation and was able to experience at first hand his distinctive humour and generosity. The novelist and his friend Kenzo Koji met me at Narita airport and I quickly realised Endo could go nowhere in his own country without being recognised, complimented and photographed. No Western writer would be so revered.

His manner was usually jolly and informal, reassuring and relaxed; he was much amused by cultural incongruities, the gaudiness of the Westerner coping with Japanese formality and vice versa. Though well versed in European literature, he never mastered much English, but retained some fluency in French. There was nothing conventional about the tour of Japan that Endo arranged for me. It was typical of him that on my second night in Tokyo he

## Leslie Crowther Come on downmarket

**E**VERYONE loved Leslie Crowther, who has died of heart failure aged 63, except the critics. He will probably be best remembered as the composer of ITV's *The Price Is Right*, which he introduced to Britain from America in 1964. A self-confessed workaholic, his judgment of the worth of his material did not always live up to his formidable energy.

He was equally at his apparently lightweight ease in the children's television show *Crackerjack*, hosting adult game shows, telling gags as a stand-up comedian or opening countless shops, bazaars and fetes. He was a loving if often absent father of five, an obsessive worker, a devoted charity man and a man who struggled courageously with alcoholism. *The Price Is Right*, with its catchphrase "Come on down!", instantly went to number one in the audience ratings, a fact which caused some critics to cringe with shame at what television and its mass audience had come to. They thought the show had all the worst attributes of America: it was loud, bright and appealed to naked greed.

Crowther's view was that the programme had "taken British TV by the scruff of the neck and shaken it". This view said more for his enthusiasm than his taste - which in private areas, including collecting antiques for his Georgian mansion near Bath, was often above average.

His connection with *The Price Is Right* had all the accumulating tragedy of a morality tale. As a private venture he and a partner took the show to Blackpool where, according to Crowther, the contestants got so skilled at leaving the right prices to one another that the cost of the prizes wiped out the profits. Crowther saw this as an utterly baffling disaster rather than as an ironic illustration of market forces. In 1988, without explanation, Central TV axed the programme and Crowther lapsed into the alcoholism which dogged him until he joined Alcoholics Anonymous.

Four years ago, his Rolls-Royce overturned on the M5, leaving him with permanent brain damage (police ruled out any suggestion that alcohol was involved). He seemed bound to die, but with typical determination recovered sufficiently to walk and talk again, though he retired from show business, his great energy diminished.

Leslie Crowther spent his childhood in Nottingham where his father, an unsuccessful actor with a drink problem, took over a sub-post office. His father had imposing height, which his son inherited. His mother, a stage manager who had even after his father in rep, was small but dominant. His parents, seeing that Leslie was a talented pianist, moved to London to be near the Royal Academy of Music. They had cycled from Nottingham to find a London house.

Leslie went to Thames Valley School, Twickenham, where he was cast as Higgins the Highwayman of *Cranford* in the end of term play. He was then sent to the Conelyman theatre school, which

had a contract with the BBC. Here Crowther met his wife Jean, won the drama cup, got an introduction to Robert Atkins, who gave him parts in the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre productions of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and broadcast with his wife in a concert party. At the same time he was playing Chopin at a junior exhibitors concert at Duke's Hall.

After appearing in the *Acorn* TV show, he got a part with Dorothy Squires in *Dick Whittington*, the first of many pantomimes. But his career did not take off until he was in the stage show *Intimacy At Eight*, which became a hit. Squires when it reached the West End, where it was seen by Greatrex Newman. Newman ran the Fol-de-Rois, a light-hearted, pacey concert party ideally suited to Crowther's perky talents. Newman offered him a job. Crowther was seen in the Fol-de-Rois by the producers of *The Black and White Minstrel Show* and *Crackerjack*. Both offered him jobs.

Wedged between TV work was a two-year run with Brian Rix in *Let Sleeping Wives Lie*. For LWT he then did *The Saturday Crowd*, on Fol-de-Rois lines, after which Michael Grade, then his agent, got him his first serious part in *My Good Woman* in *Crowther's In Town* at Wellington Pier, Great Yarmouth, where he broke box office records.

It was the beginning of a highly successful pattern. TV with top ratings (including the series with Richard Wilson, *My Good Woman*) and stage work, each fertilising the other. But by the 1980s the



Crowther... workaholic

regular appearance of hooligans in the audience put him off pantomimes; he was chased with drunk driving and his career faltered. He said in his 1994 autobiography, *The Bonus of Laughter*, that *The Price Is Right* rescued him from the doldrums, but it proved a contentious rescue. The positive side was that even after his nearly fatal accident he was still able to work for the stage charities he loved. He had for many years been a member of the Grand Order of Water Rats and had also been president of The Lord's Taverners. He was made a CBE in 1983.

**Dennis Barker**  
Leslie Crowther, entertainer, born February 8, 1933, died September 29, 1996

Andy MacElhone

# Hey mister, follow that cab to Sank Roo Doe Noo

**M**ANY British expatriates moved to Paris after the first world war, painters such as Stanley William Hayter, writers including Somerset Maugham, and even some who wanted to cater to mundane tastes, like Scottish-born Harry MacElhone, who in 1925 opened Harry's Bar at 5 Rue Dauno, near the Opera, in the very heart of Paris.

American expatriates were always more noticeable than the British, especially those dubbed by Gertrude Stein "the lost generation". They made up much of the clientele of Harry's in the early days, musicians Aaron Copland, George Antheil and Virgil Thomson; writers and editors Caresse Crosby, Scott Fitzgerald, Kay Boyle, Robert McAlmon, Ezra Pound and T S Eliot. Even James Joyce would sit in before the opera. MacElhone reputedly invented and mixed the first Bloody Mary to cure the hangovers of Ernest Hemingway, one of his most regular patrons.

Andy MacElhone, who has died aged 73, was Harry's son, born on the day his father bought the bar, and inherited it on his father's death in 1953.

American-style bars - where you sit at the bar instead of at tables - sprang up in Paris during the first world war to cater for American soldiers on leave and later for the civilians who came after 1919 to take advantage of favourable exchange rates and a life-style very different from prohibition America. Andy MacElhone started to work with his father in 1939 but in 1940, with the Germans

advancing, they fled. Andy joined the British Army, using his French in the Intelligence Corps, and rising to the rank of captain. Father and son returned to Paris in 1947 and reopened the bar. Although the clientele remained predominantly American, Harry's became a meeting place for Paris's whole expatriate community. But expatriates tend to go home, and Andy, without changing the atmosphere, made considerable and successful efforts to attract French writers, academics

and journalists. He would invite Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir to meet at Harry's, and his intellectual and literary salons, were published in Sartre's *Les Temps Modernes*. Today it remains a dimly-lit long room where you might find yourself conversing with a French or a Scottish journalist, an adventurous American tourist, or the author of yet another book on "the lost generation" sniffing out the atmosphere. Harry cleverly angled the address phonetically to Sank Roo Doe Noo

on his cards, so that taxi drivers could easily find it. Andy retired to Cannes seven years ago. Harry's is now managed by his son, Duncan, who trained to be an investment banker, but decided to become the third generation owner of one of Paris's best-known watering holes.

**John Calder**  
Andrew MacElhone, bar owner, born February 8, 1923; died September 16, 1996

**Birthdays**  
Lord Belstead, incoming Conservative chairman, the Parole Board, 64; Sir Derek Birkin, chairman, RTZ, 67; Kevin Brewer, governor, Fenwickville Prison, 47; Stephanie Cole, actress, 55; Lord Cranborne, Conservative leader, House of Lords, 50; Prof Sir Eric Denton, marine biologist, 73; Angie Dickinson, actress, 56; John Goodwin, director, Inner Cities Young People's Project, 50; Teresa Gorman, Conservative MP, 65; Anthony Green, painter, 57; Rt Rev Patrick Harris, Bishop of Southwell, 62; Deborah Kerr, actress, 73; Renana, actress, 49; Prof Frank L. Ojeda, physicist, 89; Johnny Mathis, singer, 56; Ian Ogilvy, actor, 54; Stewart Stevenson, chairman, Liberty Publishing, 61; Victoria Tennant, actress, 46.

**Small fry**  
MICROSOFT is boasting that it has sold 40 million copies of Windows 95 worldwide in a year. It still has a long way to go before it catches up with the really big boys, though: McDonald's serves more than 40 billion fast food snacks in the UK alone, in a month; M&S sells 52 million pairs of knickers in the UK every year; we scoff 624 million Mars bars a year in the UK; and 170 million tubes of Rowntree's fruit pastilles "go down a treat" each year in the UK.

**Empty future**  
JUST imagine! No traffic jams or parking problems. No check-out queues or housing shortages. No waiting for hospital beds or plumbers. This could be reality in years to come if the current trend towards homosexuality

and lesbianism continues. A very subtle point being made in the *Fleet* local paper, The Sun. Thanks to Christopher Thorpe.

**Steering clear**  
FRENCH car manufacturer Renault has proudly announced that its vehicle range will soon be equipped with the world's first on-board breathalyser, the DAR (Renault Alcohol Detector). Within three years most Renaults will offer the option, at around 240, of a dashboard-mounted ethylotest, which tells drivers whether they are over the limit within five seconds. Champagne curbs were popping at the news, especially given that France has the highest level of cirrhosis of the liver in Western Europe, as well as having some of the continent's worst road accident figures. The cars are marketed "votreus a vivre" - cars to live with. But if the dashboard read-out tells the driver that they are sozzled, will the car refuse to start? It would be simple for the on-board breathalyser to cut engine contact. But they have

decided the average Frenchman is not ready to accept that Renault should take the place of the fibres of law and order. So will it make any difference? Reported in the *New Scientist*.

**Shoppers' law**  
THE ART OF SHOPLIFTING Within capitalism, most of us are either (1) alienated from

our labour and hence dependent on the ruling classes for commodities as basic as food and clothing, (2) excluded from the division of labour, in which case we are likewise dependent on the State, or (3) performing unpaid and/or unrecognised labour and hence dependent on patriarchal relations for food, clothing etcetera. In any case, our access to resources is severely limited by contemporary relations of domination. One partial solution to this problem may be to steal. Sadly, however, many people living precariously on low incomes tend to either (1) avoid shoplifting for anarchic moral and/or ethical reasons, or (2) remain ignorant of the better methods and techniques of shoplifting, thus failing to maximise their lifting potential.

From the onset, the golden rule of theft should be enunciated: never steal from somebody who could conceivably be a comrade. It is best to play it safe and go straight for the big corporate fusers. Some people will suggest that shoplifters are a

Jackdaw



Think theories

**GRAND PRIZE WINNER:** When a cat is dropped, it always lands on its feet, and when toast is dropped, it always lands with the buttered side facing down. I propose to stress buttered toast to the back of a cat; the two will hover, spinning inches above the ground. With a giant buttered cat array, a high-speed monorail could easily link New York with Chicago.

**RUNNERS-UP:** 1. If an infinite number of red necks riding in an infinite number of pickup trucks fire an infinite number of shotgun rounds at an infinite number of highway signs, they will eventually produce all the world's great literary works in Braille.

2. Why Yawning is Contagious: You yawn to equalize the pressure on your eardrums. This pressure change outside your eardrums unbalances other people's ear pressures, so they must yawn to even it out.

3. Communist China is technologically underdeveloped because they have no alphabet and therefore cannot use acronyms to communicate ideas at a faster rate.

4. The earth may spin faster on its axis due to deforestation. Just as a figure skater's rate of spin increases when the arms are brought in close to the body, the cutting of tall trees may cause our planet to spin dangerously fast.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** The quantity of consonants in the English language is constant. If omitted in one place, they turn up in another. When a Bostonian "pinks" his "cuh," the lost r's migrate southwest, causing a Texan to "wash" his car and invest in "ert wells."

**Results of a contest for**

**Contraflow. Thanks to S Hamilton.**

**Anarchy rules**  
NOW the football season's started already - get your best card from Footy Fans against the C.J.A.

**30/9 Mass Picket -** South Dock Liverpool - 10am National C.J.A. action hosted by striking Liverpool Dockers - out for one year - info as 28/9. Followed this week by Labour Party congress for fun and disruption - help their election campaign... gouge out Blair's eyes!

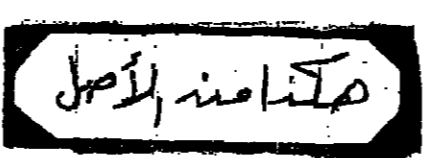
**8/10 Picket McDonald's** for all the usual reasons.

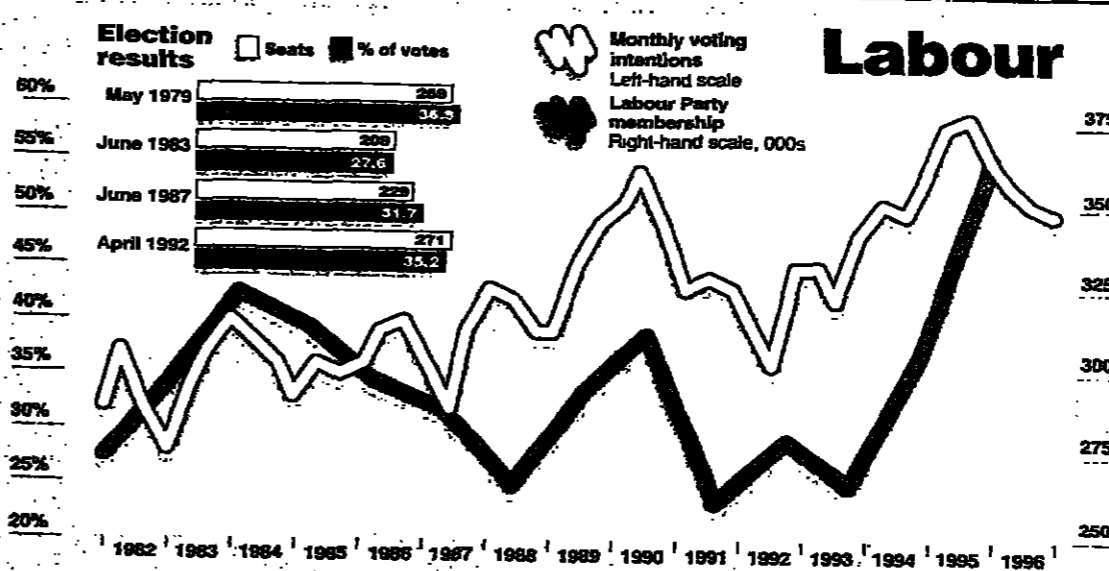
**5/11 COPEX** - the "security exhibition where they don't sell torture equipment to Indonesia, Burma etc, and if you say they do: they'll fucking sue you. Range of non-violent actions from blockades to non-arrestable things.

**A few items from the anarchist calendar printed in**

**Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail: jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax: 0171-713 4566; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.**

**Emily Sheffield**





ELECTION BATTLEGROUND/New Labour's corporatist blueprint faces twin perils of disbelief and disillusionment

Managing to get it wrong



Larry Elliott

JOHN Major's poster campaign wooing trade unionists is a gem. Labour may regard the claim that the Government is the friend of ordinary working men and women as a monumental piece of cheek, but boy does it hurt. And it hurts because, as with all the best campaigns, there is some truth in it.

Where once Labour leaders would rarely have been seen dead with the bosses, Tony Blair gets along just fine with the movers and shakers of big business. Indeed, he could do a job swap with Adam Turner, the CEO without anybody noticing the difference. Both are young, personable family men who epitomise the new breed of shirt-sleeved, hands-on executives.

Mr Turner might cavil at this comparison but Mr Blair probably would not. He sees his job as much like that of a new managing director taking over an under-performing company with a mandate to make it profitable again.

Recognition of this is crucial to understanding Labour's approach to the economy. Policies have been fashioned in the way that a corporation would sell off parts of the organisation acquired through takeover in order to concentrate on its core business.

It is tempting to say that Labour now only has one core activity, winning the election, and many commentators have been saying that. This is too glib by far. There is a case for a managerial approach to the economy and it is worth examining in some detail, because it is not just a policy for Opposition but for government as well.

Mr Blair starts from the premise that it will be achievement enough first to beat the Conservatives and then at the end of five years to show that his party can manage the economy competently and smoothly. To those who find this dull, spineless or an act of treachery, the reply is that every Labour government since the war has been so crippled by a financial crisis that it lost its way and subsequently lost its mandate.

As a result, Labour will do very little in macro-economic policy, will court the unpopularity of the public-sector unions by setting a minimal minimum wage, will not seek the rich and will be extremely wary about signing up for the single currency. There may be some micro-changes in areas of market failure — investment shortages and welfare reform, for example —

but nothing big, and nothing dramatic.

There are three possible explanations for Labour's cautious approach. The first is that Mr Blair is simply a Tory in disguise, someone who is offering a deeply conservative electorate the option of a change of government with the guarantee that everything else will remain pretty much the same.

The second argument is that Mr Blair would like to be more radical but feels cramped by what has happened to the economy — domestically and globally — in the 22 years since Labour last won an election.

The reach and might of the financial markets, the extension of globalisation, the hostility of a right-wing press, the supremacy of consumerism mean that the tasks of left-of-centre administrations are harder than ever before. Mr Blair wants to offer what is possible, not some grandiloquent gesture that will end in a hastily cobbled-together austerity programme two or three years down the road.

Finally, there is the notion that Labour is actually a lot more radical than it appears, and that once Mr Blair is safely installed as prime minister he will unveil an array

screw up through inexperience, and be blown off course by the financial turbulence which is likely in its first few months in office. It could be daft enough to join the single currency as a short-term insurance policy, it could be split by internal struggle.

But the main worry for Labour — although this may not become clear until it has won power — is that its analysts may be plain wrong. First, the notion that governments are powerless in the face of globalisation is dubious. Bad governments that do silly things are punished, but good governments that do the right things are rewarded.

Second, the obsession with macro-economic stability may be a case of fighting yesterday's war. With even the IMF now saying that monetary policy can directly affect output and employment, there is potential to run a more expansionary economic policy.

Finally, the really big shift in Labour's economic strategy is not the abandonment of the Thatcherite doctrine that the customer is always right. The party's sophisticated marketing techniques symbolise its acceptance that economic policy is about allowing consumers to spend more of their own money on satisfying private wants.

But, as the economist Michael Jacobs argued last week, this has meant abandoning Labour's own natural territory — delivering public goods — and fighting a beggar-my-neighbour war of tax cuts that it can never win.

Simply, there is an innate tension between the demand for better public goods and the desire for a better school — an expanded NHS — and the neo-liberal agenda of tax-cut-driven private consumption.

Labour's Road to the Manifesto document tacitly acknowledges this tension. The problem is that it cannot offer more than a token increase in provision of public goods while at the same time covering its flank on tax cuts. It flannels around trying to pretend it can — one piece in the most recent edition of the staunchly Blairite journal *Renascence* talks of a dramatic redirection of resources towards the education of the young, for example — but it cannot. There may be a wave of disillusionment after the election as a result.

This is not an easy choice. There has been a swing of the pendulum in recent years, with people seemingly less concerned about standards of living than about quality of life. But nobody knows how far it has swung. Corporations have gone out of business for getting such a big marketing decision wrong: Mr Blair and his board of directors had better be sure they get their right.

Grand plan is to show it has different priorities for dividend from growth

of policies that will make him the darling of the poor, the pensioners, the unemployed, the sick and the homeless. He would have higher taxes to fund the re-linkage of pensions to earnings, renationalisation of the utilities, more money for health and education, a commitment to full employment, a minimum wage of £4-plus per hour and so on.

For the purposes of this argument, let us leave Mr Blair as class traitor to one side. It is barren territory, loaded with value judgments. The fact is that Mr Blair wants to win the election and doesn't really care if he has to be a "class traitor" to do it.

Those who expect Mr Blair to be transformed from wimpish Clark Kent into socialist Superman will be disappointed. It just isn't going to happen. Labour believes the rules of engagement have changed and that there is much to be learned from the rewards Bill Clinton is reaping from his fiscal conservatism.

By 2002, according to the grand plan, Labour will have shown that it can govern, and will have shown that it has a different set of priorities for the dividend from economic growth.

Could anything go wrong with this blueprint? Plenty. Labour could allow caution to become atrophy, with a Blair government drifting along aimlessly, thinking of nothing beyond survival. It could

scramble through inexperience, and be blown off course by the financial turbulence which is likely in its first few months in office. It could be daft enough to join the single currency as a short-term insurance policy, it could be split by internal struggle.

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Coy responses to Blair's New advances

Stevenage is tired of the Tories, but still sceptical. RICHARD THOMAS reports

JOHN PINK is the kind of businessman Tony Blair wants on board the New Labour express. His firm, Wiltron, is a world leader in hi-tech microwave technology which actually exports to the Pacific Rim.

He is an internationalist, declaring: "The only way forward is through a strong Europe and a single currency." But he is a patriot too: "If you cut the top of my finger off you wouldn't see blood and bone. You'd see a Union Jack, just like a stick of rock."

The Social Chapter, minimum wage and the 48-hour week do not spook Mr Pink. "I don't want to waste my most valuable resource, my staff, by making them work all the hours. If you treat people well, you get good work out of them." He has no offence, using an open-plan canteen like his staff.

All of which would gladden the hearts of the modernising Labour front bench. Sadly, however, Mr Pink is unimpressed by Mr Blair's attempts to reshape the Labour Party, using an open-plan canteen like his staff.

He is also unconvinced that Labour as a whole has bought the Blairite revolution. "I'm not just voting for the captain, I'm interested in the whole team. People like Prescott and Skinner aren't going to just disappear."

And Mr Pink knows a bit about how things New can fall. His company is in Stevenage, the first of the New Towns, which this year celebrates 50 years of Newness. Today optimistically painted colour signs on sunken pedestrian pathways have faded and been overlaid with graffiti. The town centre is empty at night.

At McKeown Software, the firm next door to Mr Pink's, there is some support for Mr Blair. Sarah Hancy, McKeown's communications executive, gives a lucid account of the pros and cons of Labour.

Given that half the company's trade is with the public sector, providing financial and accounting packages, spending is an important issue. "If they spend more on the public sector, that would be good news for us," she says. The flipside is that a Labour government might rein in hospital trusts and agencies, reducing their power to purchase individually.

So paranoid, though, is the corporate class about appearing to support Labour, that McKeown's managing director, Kevin Lynch, heliotedly instructs Ms Hancy to deny any hint of the company see-



A sprinkle of support... Henry Holland at the Poacher pub, Stevenage, and (top) John Pink at Wiltron have mixed feelings about New Labour

He lives near the Poacher pub, where two staunchly Labour men, both labourers, are enjoying a post-work pint. Tom Shaughnessy has voted Labour since moving to England in 1983. Understandably, he wants more council-house building. "If we're going to pay taxes, I'd rather it went on providing homes for people," he says. "And I think Blair's a good leader."

His friend Trevor Williams is more sceptical. He has read about the Labour candidate for Stevenage, Barbara Follett, wife of millionaire novelist Ken Follett. "It's not a working class party any more. Can you see her coming in here?"

But he will vote Labour anyway, because he always does. If Stevenage, and the country, swings Labour's way at the polls, Mr Williams and Mr Shaughnessy hope for old-fashioned improvements in pensions, pay and housing.

Mr Pink has a blunt retort to the prospects of radical change. "At the end of the day, it probably won't make that much difference," he says. "Governments think they run the country, but they don't."

As the boss of a firm with a US parent and a Japanese owner, he has Old Labour-sounding views about where power really lies.

"Business rules the world, not politicians. That's just the way it is."

Voters cling tightly to social security blanket

Pensions debate needs more than pragmatism, writes SARAH RYLE

FEW would dispute that the welfare system needs radical reform. Although there are dangers in the view that the welfare state has become a burden (one gaining credibility by constant repetition), it is undeniable that maintaining provision even at existing levels, let alone Thatcher ones, demands tough choices.

Supply and cost of welfare provision have risen as recession and slow growth have raised unemployment and reduced government revenues. Demographic changes, primarily the ageing population, and the growth of single-parent families have increased the amount of provision needed, while technological advances have raised the cost of per capita services such as health care.

Customer demand for welfare should therefore fall, if the welfare state followed strict supply and demand economic theory.

The Conservatives' last four victories, based largely on tax-cutting promises, seem to suggest that this is what has happened, but opinion polls show the opposite.

Between 1983 (when the Labour Party promised high spending) and 1990 (when Mrs Thatcher was ousted), the percentage of the electorate wanting lower taxes and lower spending fell, while the proportion of those wanting higher taxes and higher spending rose from around 33 per cent to more than 50 per cent.

The British people seem to have a soft spot for cradle-to-grave care, so the issue for government becomes how to reduce demand in an acceptable way.

The Conservatives approached this in 1983, when Sir Norman Fowler boasted that his review of the welfare state would be the most radical since Beveridge published his blueprint. The resulting changes in legislation in 1988 were sweeping.

The state earnings-related pensions scheme (Serps) was weakened (with hindsight many have argued that this was for the sole benefit of the private pensions providers); income support and access to a raft of other benefits were cut back and the scene was set for new ways of providing health and education. The basic principle was a shift towards means testing and personal responsibility.

This week's debate on pensions sees New Labour accused of continuing this trend, pitched against Old Labour, which allegedly seeks to drag the party back into the 1970s.

That is to forget the radical content of Labour's reforms instigated by Barbara Castle, who ran the Department of Health and Social Security from 1974 to 1976. She drove through an updating of Serps and child benefit, the latter encountering particularly stiff opposition within the party.

One of her most far-sighted reforms was to observe early on the growing numbers of women in the workforce, and provide for career breaks in Serps.

But Labour wants to be able to go to the polls offering little more than a commitment to maintaining the ideals of the welfare state.

Another Conservative government will, however, certainly feel it has the mandate to attack social provision with the same zeal that it attacked nationalised industry after 1979.

But, while the electorate seemed sanguine about privatisation in the 1980s, the subsequent anger over the development of a new class of industrial barons and disillusionment over foreign ownership of key services may have cast private provision in a new light.

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Deconstruction work

Worm's eye Dan Atkinson

IT'S that man again! Yes, the rallying cry is here, witnessing the dynamic young lawyer compared by some to the late President Kennedy and by others to the junior housemaster who, for ever suggesting a coffee and a chat about your "attitude".

Use this lexicon to chart your way through it all. Enormous challenges face us in the global economy and in our society. Fortunately they're not our problem yet. A new partnership between

government and industry, workers and managers. A new generation of tilting trains, unsaleable nuclear reactors, supersonic aircraft no one wants and big lunches all round at Noddy; Our vision is of the company as a community in which each employee has a stake. Here comes the Official Receiver; We seek to shift the emphasis in corporate ethos. Jobs for all in the new ethical-surveillance bureaucracy; Solidarity, co-operation, partnership — these are our words: As are Opportunity, Responsibility, Fairness, Trust (4/10/94). And Ambitious, Idealistic, United (3/10/95). Oh, not forgetting Investment, Quality, Trust (8/1/96). Then of course

Unity, Solidarity, Partnership (3/10/95); The future lies in the marriage of education and technology; More media-studies courses; We need to create one nation, one community; Get ready for compulsory co-operation, presided over by social workers; Leading-edge, competitive businesses have nothing to fear from us: Provided they fill in the appropriate forms; Our ambitions are your ambitions: Any directorships going begging? We all want ordinary, hard-working families to pay less tax: But that's life; This is a new age, to be led by a new generation; Hey, hey we're The Monkees!

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1.8075	France 7.78	Italy 2.326	Singapore 2.145
Austria 16.21	Germany 2.3075	Malta 0.5475	South Africa 5.8875
Belgium 47.38	Greece 367.00	Netherlands 2.99	Spain 194.00
Canada 2.085	Hong Kong 11.77	New Zealand 2.17	Sweden 10.22
Cyprus 0.7025	India 55.89	Norway 9.86	Switzerland 1.89
Denmark 8.90	Ireland 0.9475	Portugal 236.00	Turkey 136.814
Finland 7.0675	Israel 4.98	Saudi Arabia 5.82	USA 1.5250

Indicators

TODAY — US: Personal Income (Aug).  
 US: Personal consumption (Aug).  
 JPI: Industrial production (Aug).  
 UK: Net credit business (Aug).  
 UK: M0 (Sep).  
 FR: Unemployment rate (Aug).  
 TOMORROW — US: Purchasing managers index (Sep).  
 UK: Purchasing man index (Sep).  
 WEDNESDAY — US: Construction spending (Aug).

GER: Industrial production (July).  
 GER: Manufacturing orders (Aug).  
 UK: Official reserves (Sep).  
 THURSDAY — US: Factory orders. FR: BOF Council meeting.  
 FRIDAY — US: Non-term payroll. US: Unemployment rate (Sep).  
 US: Average hourly earnings (Sep).  
 JP: Trade balance (Aug).  
 JP: Current account (Aug).  
 Source: DHB International.

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel) as at close of business on Friday

RECORD BREAKING RIDING AT THE ASCOT FESTIVAL

Chris Hawkins on the ebullient young Italian jockey who brings a smile to British racing

Dettori the genius with a grin

AS HE dismounted for the final time at Ascot on Saturday after riding all seven winners...

me not to do my jump from the horse in the winners' enclosure, but I thought what the hell...

we saw in that pulsating St Leger finish which earned him the controversial four-day whip ban.

had it. He made mistakes, but he learned from them and never made the same mistake twice.

Warwick Bartlett, a leading bookmaker's representative, said it had been a very bad day and estimated it could ultimately bring about the closure of at least 30 betting shops.

accumulated bet on all Dettori's Ascot mounts, though KIRK showed some back when he had the same bet when collecting his booty yesterday...



On the mark... Frankie Dettori brings home Mark of Esteem for the third of his seven Ascot victories



Fan club... Dettori proves a hit with the autograph-seeking ladies at Ascot yesterday

Sleepytime proves Eddery nightmare

FRANKIE DETTORI'S winner-trail went cold at Ascot yesterday when it was a case of after the Lord Mayor's show.

of Verse in the Ascot Fillies Mile. Sleepytime, the 11-8 favourite, finished third after an appalling run as Pat Eddery contrived to get her into all sorts of trouble.

"I replied that he had to run as Sir Noel Murless always told me never to be frightened of one horse."

Balding should be on target with Sabina and Blaze Away

AN BALDING'S horses are in fine form and the Kingsclere trainer can continue for the season by landing the opening two races at Bath today with Sabina and Blaze Away, writes Ken Oliver.

Bath with guide to recent form

Table of race results and form guides for Bath, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Hamilton runners and riders

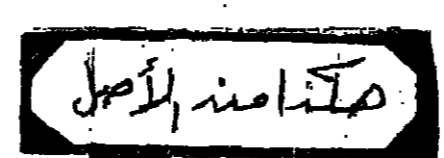
Table of race results and form guides for Hamilton, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Results

Table of race results for various tracks, including Ascot, Bath, and Hamilton.

NEWTON PLACE

Table of race results for Newton Place, including race numbers, names, and odds.



Rugby Union

Courage League One: Northampton 15, Harlequins 20

Carling knocks hard at No. 10

Robert Armstrong
IF ENGLAND are looking for a born-again fly-half with bags of international experience, they could do far worse than hand the No 10 shirt to Will Carling for their opening game against Italy in November.

Grayson, who had a forgettable afternoon with hand and foot, he also overshadowed the Wigan star Robbie Paul who was playing his first game for Quins. To ice the cake, Captain Marvel scored a slick try and kicked a conversion and a penalty goal which ultimately secured his side's fifth league victory of the season. Not a bad start.

at the end it was a bit easier and I enjoyed it. We closed them down pretty well."
Harlequins will face a tricky selection problem if their injured England fly-half Paul Challinor recovers from his elbow injury in time for Saturday's game at home to Orrell. The director of rugby Dick Best was satisfied with Carling's performance: "Some will say Will plays at fly-half like a centre, but why not? He got the back line moving, which is the main thing, and anyway his strong running suits our style."

required stitches, he returned to land a touchline penalty which gave Quins a lead they never relinquished. His 55th-minute touchdown, courtesy of a bullet pass from the hooker Keith Wood, left the Saints trailing 15-7 after they had looked worth a score. Crucially Northampton lacked finishing power inside the Quins 22, a failing that must have frustrated the Scotland fly-half Gregor Townsend, who continues to be chosen at centre by his club. "I cannot understand why Northampton don't play Townsend at fly-half," said Carling, a great admirer of the gifted Scot. Nevertheless the Irish centre Jonathan Bell and the multi-talented Nick

Beal each scored a splendid try with the type of incisive break that Carling relishes. Indeed Northampton remained strongly in the hunt to the end, thanks to the prodigious work-rate of their captain Tim Rodber, whose linking between backs and forwards did create scoring chances even though they went begging. Carling, though, does not regard the Saints as serious title contenders. "We haven't played any of the three big sides [Bath, Wasps and Leicester] so far, but it's nice to be winning these early games. We're a big-match side and in the past we've slipped up in games we should have won." Best said Paul had been un-

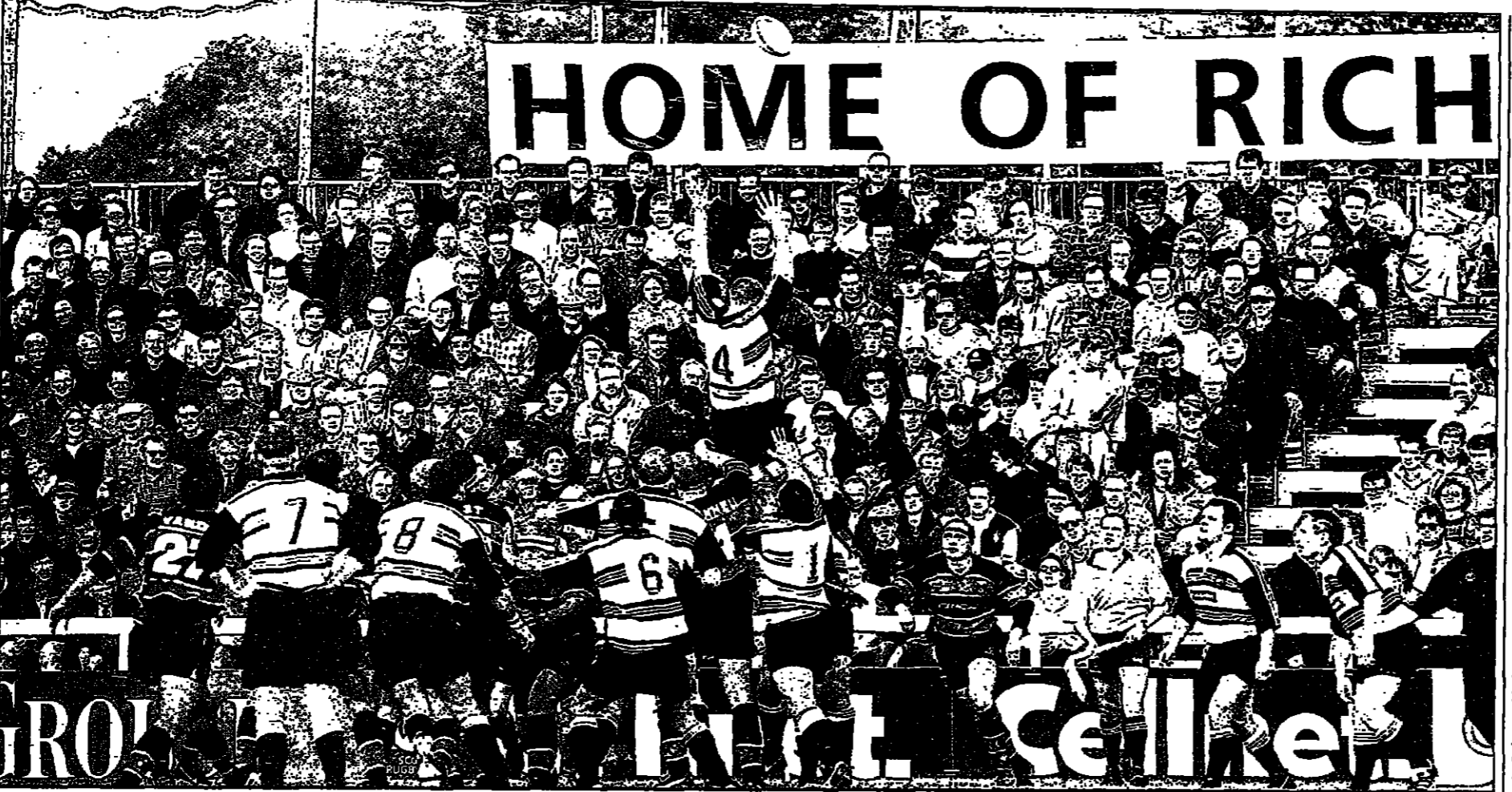
able to do himself justice because of sporadic possession and he could leave the wings out in the cold. It remains to be seen whether the New Zealand-born Wigan back will be granted his wish to play closer to the scrum, though he could form a midfield partnership with Gary Connolly should Carling remain at fly-half. "Playing in a rugby union back line was totally different. Like standing on another planet," said Paul after his first competitive outing in the 15-man code. "I'd have liked to get in the action more, but I play wherever the boss wants to put me, after all he pays the cheques. Hell, I'll even shove my head, get a couple of scars



Playmaker... Carling upstaged the England fly-half

and play in the front row if that's what's wanted." Clearly Harlequins, who also won their opening five games last season, are in better shape this time round to maintain their challenge at the top of the league. Important tries by the full-back Jim Staples and the scrum-half Hure Harries underlined their all-round attacking flair, which could be given a fresh dimension by Carling.

Even so, as Best knows, Quins' large international contingent will face demands on two fronts when they play their toughest league games in December and January. Carling, the utility back in the making, may find that even his rare skills are thinly spread.
SCORERS: Northampton: Triest, Best, Connolly, Grayson, Penalties: Grayson, Harlequins: Triest, Staples, Carling, Harries, Connolly. Conversion: Carling.
SCORERS: Northampton: Triest, Best, Connolly, Grayson, Penalties: Grayson, Harlequins: Triest, Staples, Carling, Harries, Connolly. Conversion: Carling.
SCORERS: Northampton: Triest, Best, Connolly, Grayson, Penalties: Grayson, Harlequins: Triest, Staples, Carling, Harries, Connolly. Conversion: Carling.



Take a rise... the Newcastle lock Garath Archer threatens the ozone layer, much to the wry amusement of the crowd at the Athletic Ground

League Two: Richmond 20, Newcastle 20

Enjoying 20-20 vision of the future

Michael McNay on a unique struggle of money and power at the Athletic Ground

A FEW blaring bars of Thus Spake Zarathustra preceded the entry of the gladiators. More 2000 than concert-hall Strauss, but then this rugby was billed as fit for the millennium even though the unlikely setting was the old park-like Richmond Athletic Ground, where London Scottish and Richmond share the light burden of an annual pep-rally meant to the Crown. There were practically as many internationals in the press box as on the field, though of a different vintage and without a rugby league cap among them. And despite the bank of new seats facing the centrevest main stand built in the late Fifties when the Royal Horse Show burned the old one down, they had to lock the gates before the kick-off with a capacity crowd of 6,500 inside. The crowd will be back, for this was a match of passion, speed and commitment. For a few minutes it seemed that nothing much had changed: a ball off the top from Garath Archer, Gary Armstrong's

down. Even so it was the Quinell brothers and Clarke for Richmond, and Ryan and Richard Arnold off the back of the Newcastle scrum who made the ground. Among the backs only Stimpson, surely England's Underwood, made a match ground, and ultimately it was Underwood's pace which saved a point for Newcastle. Richmond had eased ahead with seven points from our increasingly familiar friend, a penalty try for persistent in-

fringement, and then a try from Scott Quinell, hammering over the line from a scrum five. But first Underwood had set the game alight, appearing out of nowhere to score by snatching a kick-ahead by Armstrong from under the noses of Mason and Fallon. Then in the dying seconds, with the score 20-13 to Richmond, he returned the com-

pliment to Armstrong. Alan Bateman missed touch with a kick out of defence. Bentley shipped the ball to Andrew, Andrew moved one way and whipped the ball back the other, Underwood took off through the defence like a firecracker then, like a firecracker, appeared to flick out - but he knew more than us because, as he checked and turned, Armstrong was running free outside him. QED. In the boiler-room Archer was putting himself about a little over-obviously but Scott

Popplewell into the unaccustomed role of defending on his own ball and finished up at least all square, a notably able and muscular performance. But for once the sidelines were in support rather than instead of the main bill. At the end, hardened old pros (the may just) sat with smiles on their faces as the applause rolled on. Up-river at the Royal Opera House it would have rated a dozen curtain calls: at royal Richmond it was unprecedented. Things had been changing anyway, of course. Within the memory of former players Newcastle (then Gosforth) was not even the best side off the Great North Road in Newcastle. That was Northern, now playing in the upper reaches of the district leagues. And Richmond were contentedly going nowhere but down.

'The money has brought the full potential of the game as a spectator sport within reach'

Quinnell, Richard West and Craig Quinnell at two, three, and four gradually muscled him out of it while Daddie Weir quietly patrolled the line in win Newcastle's best possession. West looks the finished article, with luck, still strong. At tight-head Darren Crompton, a shrewd buy from Bath's second string, forced

Richmond's success bought by Sir John Hall had, old members left, hijacked the club they loved, so they have decamped and re-founded Gosforth. At Richmond a happier ending may just be in prospect. There Rob Robbins, a fearsome loose forward in the Sixties, began the process of finding match sponsors at £30 a time during his presidency

10 years ago. If he did not foresee the scope of the revolution, he certainly does not regret it. But Robbins played rugby for Richmond in 30 countries around the world and for him that kind of playing career and the friendships he made were the real legacy of rugby, one that cannot survive in the paid upper echelon. Still, today at Richmond, beyond the first-team squad and the development team, there are still five social teams, still paying subscriptions and such fees. The first-team game always was in a different dimension. Now, the money unloaded by the likes of Sir John and Ashley Levitt has brought the full potential of the game as a spectator sport within reach. Rob Robbins regrets that no more than the other £6,500 at Richmond.

When Leicester did opt to run a kickable penalty early in the game their enterprise was rewarded as John Ley's clever tap was quickly transferred via the hands of Will Greenwood to Steve Hackney.

Leicester 32, Gloucester 14

Fitful Tigers need Back support

THE Tigers may be men of substance but the style is still proving elusive at Welford Road.

who dived in for a spectacular try as Gloucester were still trying to regroup. But often Leicester confused enterprise and foolhardiness as they ran the ball from deep positions when their team were not in a position to counter-attack, playing into the hands of Gloucester's congested midfield. Leicester's own midfield performed fitfully, with the visitors' fly-half Mark Mapletoff overshadowing his opposite number Rob Lilley.

Mapletoff is improving week by week, a compact player with an astute rugby brain. It was tough that his one mistake should finally settle the result 10 minutes from time. Gloucester had a potential 3-1 overlap as they attacked deep within Tiger territory but Rory Underwood intercepted Mapletoff's pass and ran some 80 metres to touch down under the posts. It was the first decent pass Leicester's stand-in captain had received all afternoon.

It was good to see Rory push those old limbs along and outpace a player as good as Chris Catling," said Smith. Smith's namesake, the Gloucester flanker, and Leicester lock Martin Johnson, who was failing to remarketed. Back is one of the world's best flankers, every bit as inspirational as the talisman Deano. "We can play a tighter game or an open one," said Smith. "We're encouraging players to try things. Players have got to have the licences to run penalties but sometimes the type of possession they have is not good enough. What I don't want is players to become inhibited. Most of the options we took were right but perhaps we should have been a little more controlled."

When Leicester did opt to run a kickable penalty early in the game their enterprise was rewarded as John Ley's clever tap was quickly transferred via the hands of Will Greenwood to Steve Hackney.

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Courage League One: Orrell 27, Wasps 44

Wasps buzzing to order

David Irvine
WASPS have scored a total of 37 tries in their last eight league games while Orrell, who beat them 11 months ago, have conceded 43. The post-professional gulf between them now seems considerable - though not, Orrell believe, as wide as the league positions suggest. Orrell consider themselves unlucky in having to face all the strongest sides in their first six games. On Saturday they will visit Harlequins, probably without Franco Bertia. They are determined to be compensated fully for his expected loss to Llanelli, but Brett's return has solved the goal-kicking problem and there are signs that a useful pack is being assembled. Wasps deservedly won this high-scoring contest with a purple patch of slick, imaginative and fast handling, but

Orrell's contribution was often skilful enough to fan the flames of optimism. As so often, Wasps began slyly but once in top gear impressed through their sheer pace and agility from full-back to prop. In the pack Mitchell and Sheehy were immense. Orrell's defence was again poor. They never looked likely to shut down Gomarasi, who was vulnerable to Va'anga Tuigamala's midfield charges and seemed unprepared for the angled running of Roiser and Scrase. Yet for half the match Orrell competed well for possession, and when their forwards - especially Bennett and Angelsea - began in the second half to drive at Wasps before opening up they looked the better side. For their fourth and final try they even pushed their opponents off the ball in a scrum. "Even if we go down I'm confident we can get back soon because we have some

excellent youngsters," said their president, the former England coach Des Seabrook. Others, though, fear that relegation would spell disaster after a decade in League One. Wasps, meanwhile, must surely start work on eradicating the dangerous lapses in concentration that afflict them if they are to maintain their drive to the title. It was ludicrous that, having scored 37 points in 26 minutes on Saturday, they should then concede 17 in the next 20. Nevertheless it was entertaining stuff.
SCORERS: Orrell: Triest, Lyon, Hepton, Bennett, Mayor, Gomarasi, Scott, Penalties: Scott, Wasps: Triest, Scrase, Roiser, V. Tuigamala, Sheehy, Conversion: Roiser, Penalties: Roiser, 2.
Orrell: R. Hitchmough, J. Naylor, D. Lyon (capt), I. Tuigamala, N. Hepton, M. Scott, S. Cook, I. Worthing, M. Scott, S. Turner, P. Ross, P. O'Neill, J. Hussey (A. MacFarlane), S. Mitchell, A. Bennett.
Wasps: G. Hines, L. Scrase, M. Gomarasi, V. Tuigamala, S. Mitchell, A. King, A. Gomarasi, D. Molloy, S. Mitchell, M. Williams, D. Cronin, M. Greenwood, M. White, L. Dalrymple (capt), C. Sheehy (N. Hadley, 76).
Reference: A. Spradbery (RFU).

Sale 31, Bristol 33

Fall in Stocks costs Sale

Tom Lester
AS WITH New Labour, rugby there are aspects of rugby which die-hard fans find hard to swallow. The tendency of sides to hang their brains up with their club blazers was evident in Bristol's dismay even though they gained their first Courage League victory at Brooklands. They should have won by a country mile after leading 24-0 with only 16 minutes gone, yet they scraped home in a photo-finish. That they survived the experience was to their eventual credit, but what were they playing at? The game was seemingly wrapped up as people still emerged from the bar. "This is a disgrace, Sale," someone shouted, an opinion not out of place as the home side let in Tuinetti, Burke and Regan be-

fore scoring three tries themselves in a whirlwind six minutes. Ryan and Morris breezed rank-back Bristol tacking and Mallinder performed a marvellous gallop from his 22. Any place-kicks out of comfortable reach, however, were left in the hands of the Sale side. This is another area Sale must sort out quickly - and his failure with three conversion kicks proved ultimately costly. Burke's narrow victory in the place-kicking stakes was the difference, but finding new ways to lose at home by the slenderest margins has become an art form at Sale. They went down by the same score to Wasps last month, and the recurring theme of last season is haunting them again. Sale sorely missed the cooler heads of Dewi Morris, still injured, and the New Zealander John Mitch-

ell, still tied up in immigration red tape. When Robert Jones limped off at the interval, Bristol reverted to type. By keeping it tight they hung on, but not before Sale led briefly as the result of a penalty try. Burke restored a heart-stopping final 10 minutes; if they had succeeded again, Alan Davies might have wrung a few necks. The Bristol coach could in the end afford a joke: "At least we made a game of it."
SCORERS: Sale: Triest, Ryan, Morris, Mallinder, penalty try, Conversion: Ryan, Penalties: Ryan, 2. Bristol: Triest, Tuinetti, 2. Burke, Regan, Conversion: Burke, 2. Penalties: Burke, 3.
Sale: J. Mallinder (capt), D. Ross, J. Davenden, G. Stocks, C. Yates (S. Vrochokas, 76min), M. Ryan, M. Watt, P. Wainwright, S. Diamond, J. Smith, J. Fowler, D. Baldwin, D. O'Grady, A. Morris, C. Vyvan.
Bristol: P. Hull, D. Tuinetti, K. Maggo, M. Denny, B. Brezer, P. Burke, R. Jones (capt), T. Down, J. A. Sharp, M. Regan, D. Palmer, J. Shaw, P. Adams, I. Dixon, C. Corbrey (C. Barrow, 36), E. Rollitt.
Reference: J. Pearson (Durham)

World Cup, Pool Two: Latvia 44, Norway 6

Skilful Latvia start World Cup as Norwegians would

Martyn Williams in Riga
THE 1999 World Cup will be hosted by Wales, so it was only fitting that the first of its 138 qualifying matches should be kicked off by a Welshman: Huw Howells, Norway's outside-half. This, however, proved to be Norway's last noteworthy contribution to a one-sided affair in Europe Pool Two, Latvia cheered on here by a few hundred supporters, scored eight tries. They won seven scrums against the head and but for some poor handling by their three-quarters they could have doubled their try-count. Norway, a cosmopolitan bunch of enthusiasts, some of them travelling eight hours a day to train, were no match for the strong, skilful and disciplined home side. They trailed from the eighth minutes when Guntar Skuuskas, a highly promising right-

wing, crossed for the World Cup's first try. It was Norway's first 15-a-side game in serious competition. They want to form a Baltic League Cup but funds are limited. Neither union's turnover reaches five figures, though Latvia's most experienced player, their coach Vladimir Nikonov, is paid \$300 a month as a rugby development officer, his only income. Latvian officials think the World Cup and IB rugby unions have an obligation to help them. With the country's entire rugby population centred on Riga's four clubs, they need exposure and financial assistance from outside. The gulf in class between Latvia and the Five Nations teams is wide, yet their skills would test junior clubs in Britain. Neither of these sides is likely to reach the World Cup finals but at least they have been part of it and that can only help the country's wider development.





Striking return... Stan Collymore puts Rieper and trouble behind him and Liverpool in front in the third minute at Upton Park yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: DAN SMITH



Taking the strain... Ray Harford can't watch

MIKE EGGERTON

Premiership: West Ham United 1, Liverpool 2

# The Reds ride out in style

Martin Thorpe sees Liverpool prove their title credentials in a searching examination

**W**INNING the title takes spit as well as polish, and Liverpool showed yesterday that they can shine with the best of the battlers. The extension of their lead at the top of the Premiership is a reward for matching West Ham's tigerish approach when it mattered before emerging with enough style to show who was boss in an entertaining and absorbing game.

Their loss through injury of influential players such as Fowler and Wright ended up as a minor problem, though the England new boy Matteo enjoyed a less than international-class game as sweeper and, when Collymore limped off after 19 minutes, Liverpool badly lacked a focal point up front. "With hindsight," Roy Evans admitted later, "I should have put on young Lee Jones a lot earlier."

wide and Bowen shot just over after a cracking one-touch movement with Hughes. For spells Liverpool could hardly get beyond their 18-yard line, as West Ham pressured the visitors' ball-playing defenders, and at one point Scates was forced into a very un-Liverpool-like boot of the ball aimlessly upfield just to relieve the pressure.

Everton 2, Sheffield Wednesday 0

# Wednesday's side has far to go

**I**T HAD not been much of a week for either club. On Wednesday, Joe Royle of Everton and David Pleat of Sheffield Wednesday had spent much of the morning attempting to explain away their embarrassing League Cup defeats the previous evening.

Chelsea 1, Nottingham Forest 1

# Lee sticks in gracious Gullit

**J**EREMY ALEXANDER The execution was as outrageous as its effect. Chelsea, dominant throughout, had created two dozen clear chances to Forest's two. They put 12 shots wide in the first half and saw seven superbly denied by Crossley in the second after Vialli had beaten him. And Frank Clark said afterwards that Forest had worked on ways of countering Chelsea's approaches.

Little spot of bother with McGrath

**P**ETER WHITE Aston Villa's manager Brian Little was yesterday involved in an angry verbal exchange with Paul McGrath. The 36-year-old Republic of Ireland defender was ordered home and is unlikely to play for Villa again.

Red signals go for Milan

**M**ILAN overcame the sending-off of Zvonimir Boban to beat Perugia 3-0 yesterday with the help of two more goals from George Weah.

McGrath... sent home

**M**CGRATH is believed to have received about £100,000 as a signing-on fee when he agreed a new one-year contract with Villa in the summer.



McGrath... sent home

Coventry City 0, Blackburn Rovers 0

# Rovers head towards a cul-de-sac

Commentary David Lacey

**F**OR teams who are bottom in late September the threat of relegation is nothing more than a rumble of distant thunder. But if they are still bottom when the clocks have gone back and the leaves are no longer on the trees then the storm clouds will surely gather overhead.

Five pages of sport

Racing  
Frankie  
Dettori's  
unforgettable  
weekend  
**12**

Soccer  
Liverpool  
three points  
clear at  
the top  
**15**

# SportExtra

NORWEGIAN'S DOUBLE LIFTS UNITED INTO THIRD SPOT AS TOTTENHAM RUE MISSED CHANCES



Striking the first blow... Ole Gunnar Solskjaer thumps United's first goal past the despairing lunge of Sol Campbell at Old Trafford yesterday. The youngster has scored five goals in eight games for his new club PHOTOGRAPHS: MICHAEL STEELE

Premiership: Manchester United 2, Tottenham Hotspur 0

## Sharp Solskjaer strikes it rich

David Lacey

**A**LLEX FERGUSON will be Tony Blair's guest at the Labour Party Conference this week. It was not altogether appropriate, therefore, that

Manchester United should choose yesterday to perform with the languor of the idle rich.

Yet it would be harsh to describe the victory over Tottenham, which has taken United to third place in the Premiership, as unearned in-

come. There were more and more glimpses of their better passing rhythms, and each goal was taken with admirable aplomb by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the 23-year-old Norwegian who has now scored five times in eight games. So far he has not failed to find the net at Old Trafford.

Ferguson was largely satisfied with the performance, his main complaint being that his defences had been "very slow in trying to win the ball back". But he praised United's football in the last third of the field. "The speed of the passing was very, very good," he said, "and we always looked as if we were going to win it."

Theory, however, was not always borne out in sluggish practice which mirrored United's approach in the second half of their Champions League game against Rapid Vienna four nights earlier. Perhaps thoughts of the immediate tasks in hand persuaded Ferguson's side to play so much of yesterday's match in a low gear.

A number of players will be on international duty in the World Cup during the coming fortnight. After that United face Liverpool at home, followed by their Champions League game with Fenerbahce in Istanbul. Then they go to Newcastle.

Even so, yesterday's patchy performance could have cost Manchester United dear. With Sheringham back in Tottenham's attack, having missed five Premiership matches with a thigh injury, and Campbell restored to the defence, the visitors played with rather more authority than they had done in losing 2-1 at home to Leicester City a week earlier.

There were periods when

United, again without an injured Keane, found themselves so hustled and harried in midfield that they were unable to retain possession long enough to set up any sort of passing pattern. At times the play passed Cantona by, at others the Frenchman was as profound an influence as ever.

Sinton's speed and control on the left gave Gary Neville a difficult afternoon not made any easier by Poborsky's lack of support. Even after the Czech had been replaced by Scholes, who understands something about the dignity of labour, Neville still struggled to contain the Tottenham winger.

In the end the match was won by superior playing

resources. United had lost Johnsen from central defence but May recalled alongside Pallister, proved a consistent obstacle to Spurs and Irwin was his usual rocklike steadiness at left-back.

Giggs, who had suffered an ankle injury in the first half, stayed off for the second. Cruyff took his place and again suggested that he might be happier in a central role rather than staying on the left flank.

Ferguson had some sympathy with this. "I really don't know what Jordi's best position is," the United manager admitted, "but perhaps it is in the middle. That gives me another problem, of course. Some players pick themselves and Solskjaer can't be ignored while he is continuing to score goals."

Tottenham were only partly back to strength. They still miss Mabbutt at the back and, though Anderton's discomfort as he awaits another groin operation had been obvious the previous Sunday, Spurs could have done with his ability to vary the pace and direction of their movements.

The 18-year-old Allen, continuing to deputise for Armstrong, yet another Tottenham casualty, continues to impress and yesterday provided an alert and intelligent foil for Sheringham's inventiveness.

Another couple of inches and Allen might give Spurs the lead on the quarter-hour when he lunged in late to meet Sinton's dipping centre and only narrowly failed to make contact.

By then Solskjaer had offered a portent for the way things might work out, not so much by waiting the ball over the bar but through his astute sense of anticipation in being in the right place at the right

moment to meet Poborsky's low cross.

The opening goal arrived eight minutes before half-time. Campbell had been reaching most high balls but Giggs's cross from the left caught him out of position, Solskjaer's first touch was true, and the Norwegian allowed himself the luxury of a second before beating Walker.

Sheringham's lack of match practice showed when he

managed only a weak header

after Fox's chip had left him clear and inside, and again late in the match when, even allowing for the excellence of Schmeichel's stretching save, he should have scored.

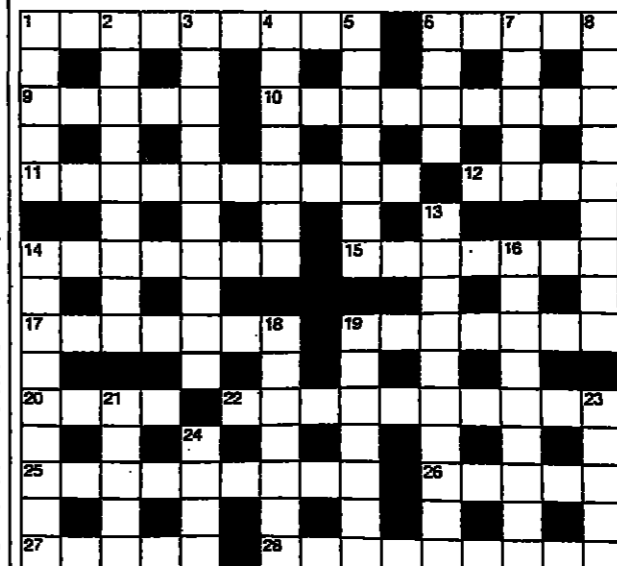
Solskjaer, meanwhile, had increased United's lead three minutes before the hour, driving the ball into the net after Cruyff, Cantona and Butt had worked the ball to him. "They took their chances, we didn't," said Gerry Francis,

the Tottenham manager, and nobody could argue with that.

The controversial theme of the weekend continued when Howells, trying to chest a bouncing ball down in the United penalty area, inadvertently controlled it with an upper arm and was promptly booked by Gary Willard. Referees still have discretion over the matter of intent where handball is concerned, and this was surely a case for using it.

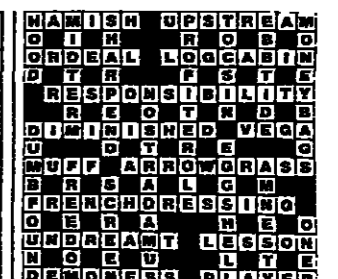
### Guardian Crossword No 20,771

Set by Crispa



- Across**
- 1 Pay five hundred is the order (9)
  - 6 Kind about 20 (5)
  - 9 A learned person in a wild frenzy (5)
  - 10 A certain European scheme occupying a man who's loaded (9)
  - 11 Restores control by the USA (10)
  - 12 Taking an old sovereign in, look decidedly pleased (4)
  - 14 Quite possibly not once appearing mean (7)
  - 15 1 ac. — refer to the paper (7)
  - 17 The humblest takes without thanks in appropriate situation (7)
  - 19 Big craft centre (7)
  - 20 Miss the inexperienced driver, a fool (4)
  - 22 Overlap not serious? That's illuminating! (10)

- 25 The Italian left with a gibe when disturbed (3,2,4)
  - 26 William stocks river fish ... (5)
  - 27 ... stuff from the river (5)
  - 28 Very edgy? (5)
- Down**
- 1 Showing spirit, a top journalist backed up protest (5)
  - 2 Awareness of some words written about the unit (9)
  - 3 Grave remembrances, and the sad results one's read of (10)
  - 4 Free — let out again (7)
  - 5 Lacking iron say (7)
  - 6 He's within easy reach apparently (4)
  - 7 An assistant given a rough ride (5)
  - 8 The least conventional room in the streets (5)
  - 13 Soldiers rope everyone in, as may be remembered (10)



WISCONSIN OF PRIZES PUZZLE 20,771  
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Mr L Shaw of Worsley, Manchester, Paddy Coffey of Farnham, Harris, Rosalind Stanfield of Edinburgh, Harold Margolis of London, and Henry Kinoshita of Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin.

- 14 The beef responsible for sickness? (9)
- 16 Leading, so maybe standing by (9)
- 18 Cultivation right up to a person's last years (7)
- 19 Skinhead nponng towels, being most stupid (7)
- 21 Against going in alone to work out (5)
- 23 A score agree (5)
- 24 The boss endlessly reading (4)

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CHARLES WELLS

BREWED BY THE CHARLES WELLS FAMILY BREWERY, BEDFORDSHIRE. EST. 1876.

**He has a wide circle of mates, all benefiting from his munificence ("My mam's never asked me for anything," he says. "Nor me dad, he's never asked for anything, well except a house, a boat, a seven 7-series BMW and a canny wage").**  
Jim White sees the real Gazza

### G2 cover story

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